

Government retreat may avert national coal strike

An official national miners' strike may be averted after unexpected concessions last night. The Government and the coal board agreed to withdraw the plan for 23 pit closures and to provide more state aid. Government circles agreed that the Prime Minister's paramount consideration had been to avoid an official strike [Page 3].

Pit closure programme halted

Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, said the threatened national strike may be averted after unexpected concessions last night. The Government and the coal board agreed to withdraw the plan for 23 pit closures and to provide more state aid. Government circles agreed that the Prime Minister's paramount consideration had been to avoid an official strike [Page 3].

The board's withdrawal of the closure programme, within hours of completing its announcement, is expected to weigh heavily with the moderate majority.

Mr. Howell, flanked by junior ministers from the Welsh and Scottish offices and the Department of Industry, is understood to have told the mining unions that coal imports would fall from eight million tonnes to five and a half million tonnes this year, and the Government would provide aid to reduce that figure still further.

There would be more cash to ease the financial difficulties of the coal board, from which operating subsidies are being withdrawn under the Coal Industry Act 1980.

Mr. Gormley said: "The Government has indicated that they are willing to make cash available to help the import situation and help the board's financial position. On that basis the board has withdrawn the statement they made on February 10 [the closure programme]."

The miners will now discuss with the board the industry's future within a more relaxed financial framework, but there will still be some colliery closures.

"We have already admitted that there will have to be pit closures," Mr. Gormley said. "Pits will close. That is a statement of fact. They come to the end of their life."

Further talks with Mr. Howell are planned for next Wednesday when the size of the Government's help for the industry will become clearer. Mr. Gormley would only say it would be a lot of money. He did not deny that it could run into hundreds of millions of pounds.

After last night's announcement, Mr. Emyr Williams, president of the miners in South Wales, said the strike in his area would continue until the closure threat was withdrawn. In all parts of Britain, an area delegates' conference would be needed before the South Wales strike could be called off, he added.

Mr. Jack Collins, the NUM's Kent area secretary, said Kent miners would not return to work until they receive "certain safeguards".

He added: "We are dealing with cunning people and, for the present, the Kent miners have a guarded mistrust of the new situation."

The unofficial miners' strike spread rapidly yesterday before the announcement to Durham, Scotland, and Staffordshire. All the Scottish pits were at a standstill by last night. In Yorkshire, the NUM area council meeting has been brought forward by three days to tomorrow.

At the last round of local talks, earlier yesterday, the National Coal Board had announced five further colliery closures in Scotland and Yorkshire, bringing the final tally under the now-withdrawn shutdown programme to 23 and the number of jobs to be lost to 13,057.

The men in Scotland had begun to walk out even before area management disclosed the intention to close Cardowan (1,178 jobs), High House (320), and Sorn (229). In addition to Lady Victoria (368), the closure of which had already been agreed.

At the Yorkshire meeting the closures of Manor (250 jobs) and Park Hill (450) collieries were announced, in addition to Orgrave (520), which was already named, and Loft-house (600), which has been agreed.

The strike in Durham began when miners at the doomed Sacriston colliery stopped work and went to picket the other mines named for closure. The men also struck at the Victoria pit in Staffordshire, which is listed for closure; and the Welsh miners set out to other collieries to spread the unofficial action that has halted their colliery and Kent.

Miners in South Wales are also pickinget power stations, beginning at Aberthaw near Barry, South Glamorgan. The Central Electricity Generating Board said it was going into any of the four power stations in South Wales, but there were stocks of 586,000 tonnes, enough for about five weeks.

Coal crisis, page 3



Miss Susan Brown, aged 22, who will become the first woman to appear in the 152 years of the University Boat Race when she coxes the Oxford crew against Cambridge on April 4 to retain the Ladbrooke Trophy.

Miss Brown, from Honiton in Devon, is an undergraduate at Wadham College and competed in the 1980 Olympics as cox to the women's four and also coxed the Oxford women's eight. Report, page 11.

Iran admits that jailed Britons are innocent

From Tony Allaway, Tehran, Feb 18

An Iranian Christian has confessed to forging documents that led to the imprisonment of three British missionaries for six months. A fourth Briton, Mr. Andrew Pyke, has also been held.

Muhammad Beheshti, the head of the Supreme Court, said that the four Britons, who have been jailed since August, would be freed "perhaps in a very short time". The confession would be filmed and shown on Iranian television, he added.

Ayatollah Beheshti told a press conference the four could leave prison after "administrative operations" had been completed. Asked when this might happen, he said: "I don't think it will be so long. But I don't know the details."

Diplomats were encouraged by the ayatollah's comments, which contradicted recent statements by Iranian officials that the Britons might be put on trial.

Ayatollah Beheshti did not explain why the statements conflicted and left several other questions unanswered. He would not explain why the Iranian's confession should relate to Mr. Pyke, a businessman whose case was not understood to be related to those of the three Iranian missionaries in prison.

Miss Jean Waddell, and Dr John and Dr Andrew Coleman are the three missionaries.

The ayatollah would not comment on what was keeping the four in prison.

"I don't decide all this because the decision should be taken by a normal court, not the Supreme Court, and what I say is only the report on the case which the Revolutionary Court in Tehran has given to me."

He said the Iranian who had confessed to forging the documents, which purported to show the British missionaries as spies, was an employee of "one of the Christian missions in Iran".

It was assumed he was referring to the Anglican Mission based in the central Iranian city of Isfahan, where a series of violent attacks have been carried out since the revolution.

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Biggest tax cuts and spending curbs in first Reagan budget

From Frank Vogel, US Economics Correspondent, Washington, Feb 18

The largest programme of tax cuts and non-military public spending cuts ever proposed by a United States Administration, was announced tonight by President Reagan.

The programme demonstrates concern at the White House to strengthen national security by proposing a \$90,000 million increase (\$40,000 million) over the next four years in defence spending to a 1984 total of \$250,000 million.

The programme is designed to stimulate private investment and savings and reduce the Government's role in the economy. Public spending, as a percentage of gross national product, is planned to fall from about 23 per cent today to approximately 19 per cent in four years.

A dramatic slow-down in the growth rate of public spending is proposed. Increases will be limited to 6 per cent compared to the 16 per cent of the last two years. In order to achieve this, while boosting defence spending, huge cuts are proposed in many areas—including a 29 per cent reduction in federal aid to states.

The President's economic advisers predicted that the new programme will gradually reduce inflation, from today's 11 per cent to a projected 5.5 per cent by 1984. They also forecast that the budget will be balanced by 1984 and that economic growth, in real terms, will exceed 4 per cent next year and in subsequent years, after the 1.1 per cent achieved this year.

Many of the public spending cuts go so far reaching that President Reagan will find exceptional difficulty getting all his programme through Congress.

Large cuts are proposed, for example, in extended unemployment benefits, government employees in jury compensation, government support of a special black lung trust fund and in government supported health, food, education, housing and energy programmes.

The tax burden on all Americans will be reduced by 30 per cent over the next three years and a half. Capital gains taxes will be gradually reduced and large tax incentives are proposed for business in order to stimulate investment in new plant and equipment.

The Administration promised that as soon as Congress has enacted these tax cuts a new set of tax cutting proposals will be outlined to encourage individual saving and investment.

Direct spending cuts of \$41,000 million are proposed for the 1982 fiscal year, starting on October 1 but additional savings are advocated through increased support user charges and cuts in credit programmes so that overall Government spending might be down by \$50,000 million from the level proposed by the Carter Administration.

The combination of tax and spending cuts will reduce the budget deficit in the 1982 fiscal year by some \$9,000 million to \$45,000 million. This is expected to be halved in the 1983 fiscal year with a tiny surplus being seen in 1984.

The Administration says the budget deficits will be financed by increased savings resulting from the tax cuts and not by borrowing.

The budgets of the national endowments of the arts and humanities are to be cut by 30 per cent and spending on public broadcasting will go down by 25 per cent. Loan authorisations by the Export-Import Bank are to be cut by more than \$2,000 million next year to \$4,000 million.

Foreign aid in the 1982 fiscal year is to be cut by \$1,854 million to \$5,592 million. Specific details were not announced today.

The Administration also seeks considerable reorganisation in the management of many government programmes. More than 40 separate health programmes have been brought together into a scheme where large block grants will be given for state and local government use as appropriate.

President's call, page 6
Rough medicine, page 19

Mr Harold Evans will become 'Times' editor next month

By Dan van der Vat

The number of battles Mr Evans has fought will be long remembered. One of his heroes is the great Victorian editor, W. T. Stead, and it was from the editorial chair once occupied by that outstanding campaigner, at the Northern Echo in Darlington, that Mr Evans successfully pursued his campaign for a free pardon for the wrongly convicted, and -hanged Timothy Evans.

After five years editing the Northern Echo, during which he won a Newspaper Design Award for reshaping the paper, Mr Evans became chief assistant to the editor of The Sunday Times, then Mr (later Sir) Denis Hamilton, in 1966, and was made joint managing editor shortly afterwards. He became editor in 1971.

The period has been marked by a long series of spectacular investigations, ranging from the Savundra car insurance swindle to false labelling of wine, from quackery-rigging in Parliament to brutality towards prisoners.

Among many awards, Mr Evans was named Journalist of the Year in the British IPC awards for 1973, International Editor of the Year 1975 by the American Allie World Press Review and received the gold medal of the Institute of Journalists in Britain in 1979.

Mr Giles is 62 and joined The Times as a foreign correspondent after war service and a period in the Foreign Office, including a time as private secretary to Mr Ernest Bevin. He joined The Sunday Times and became its foreign editor in 1961, a post he gave up in 1971.

He will have two joint deputy editors: Mr Hugo Young, the present political editor, and Mr Ron Hall, editor of the paper's magazine.

Harold Matthew Evans, son of a locomotive driver, was born in Manchester in 1918 and has been an editor for 30 years, during which he has established himself not only as the leading editorial technician in contemporary British journalism but also as the most passionate campaigner for its freedom.

As editor of The Sunday Times for the past 14 years, he has fought many memorable battles for freedom of information and against official secrecy, for the right to investigate matters of public interest and against attempts of suppression by governments, parliament and courts.

He has propounded his commitment to a freer press from many platforms, but his Granada Lecture on the subject in 1974 encapsulated it as well as any other occasion. "Bad Watergate" burglars in Smith Square or Transport House, the half-free press of Britain would have been muzzled," he said.

Continued on page 2, col 4



Mr. Harold Evans: Fighter of many memorable battles.

Nuclear spending attacked by MPs

Nicholas Hirst

An all-party parliamentary committee has questioned a need for a nuclear power programme of the size intended by the Government.

In a sharply worded report, the committee, made up of members from all major parties, criticises the demand for cost estimates of the electricity authority and attacks many of the assumptions made in assessing which nuclear reactor should be chosen.

The report does not attack a need for nuclear power, but it claims that the payment of Energy has not had sufficient attention to the value of the savings on increased conservation.

Because of the cost of the programme, equal to 1980 prices, the committee believes that the case for new generating capacity must be very persuasive. It remains unconvinced that there is an economic or industrial reason for the size of programme mentioned.

Fourteen months ago, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State, Mr Howell said that the Government would allow two fast-reactors to be ordered, subject to a public inquiry. American-designed pressurised water reactor. It would aim to order a station a year from 1982, with the choice of reactor after the PWR left open.

The select committee's strongest criticism is reserved for the Central Electricity Generating Board. The committee said it was made aware that the board had a reputation as "bureaucratic and unhelpful".

Its demand forecasts were revised downwards within weeks of its first evidence to the committee from 52,000 megawatts to 48,500 megawatts.

The committee believes that the figures were being revised downwards, even if precise figures were not known. "The credibility of much of the CEBG's subsequent evidence was undermined by this omission," the report says.

The committee was deeply unhappy at the assumptions on cost produced by the CEBG, which implied that an American pressurised water reactor built in the United Kingdom would cost 24 per cent more than one built elsewhere.

It recommends that the Secretary of State for Energy should order an immediate independent assessment of the suitability of the Canadian designed Candu reactor, which has not so far figured seriously in decisions about which system should be built in Britain.

Leading article, page 15

6% pay limit fixed for public sector

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The Government formally declared its intention last night to impose a 6 per cent limit on pay increases for about 1.7 million people directly employed by the state.

The announcement produced, predictably, a hostile reaction from public service unions.

The cash limit, which was announced in a Commons written answer by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, had been foreshadowed by the 6 per cent pay offer already made to 530,000 white collar civil servants, and to more than 200,000 hospital ancillary staff and ambulance men.

Other groups of workers who will be offered 6 per cent include 450,000 nurses and midwives, 90,000 doctors and dentists, and 120,000 National Health Service administrative and clerical staff.

Sir Geoffrey also announced that the cash limit for public sector expenditure, excepting pay, would be 11 per cent, the limit announced last November for local authorities. The limit for pay will apply to settlements due before August 1 and provisionally for settlements after that date.

The 6 per cent offer to the white collar civil servants has been criticised by the CBI.

Continued on page 2, col 4

Pay settlements leaving single figures

Cost pay settlements are approaching single-figure levels. Department of Employment figures for December show a rise in average earnings of 10 per cent a year, and the results in the Confederation of British Industry's cost database show that settlements are averaging between 8 and 9 per cent, subject to a public inquiry. American-designed pressurised water reactor. It would aim to order a station a year from 1982, with the choice of reactor after the PWR left open.

Page 19

Rises of 6pc proposed in EEC farm prices

The European Commission has proposed increases in farm produce prices ranging between 6 and 12 per cent. The proposals also incorporate measures to reduce mounting food surpluses. The net cost to the Community budget is put at about £220 million. The increases still have to be agreed among the agricultural ministers of the ten.

Page 6

Polish student pact

The threat of a nationwide strike by Polish students has been removed by an agreement reached between the Lodz University students and Mr Gorski, the Minister of Education. It gives the students the right to form an independent union and grants most demands of an academic character.

Page 6

16 martyrs beatified

Sixteen priests and laymen who were tortured to death by the Japanese in the seventeenth century have been beatified by the Pope. Three million Filipinos watched the ceremony in Manila.

Page 7

Judge orders 16 airlines to hand over £2m

A High Court judge ordered 16 foreign airlines to pay £2 million to the British Airports Authority in 21 days. The sum is the increase in landing charges imposed at Heathrow, London, from last April, which the airlines with-held and are disputing in a legal action.

Page 5

England lose by innings

Despite a brave innings of 70 by Boycott, England lost the first Test against West Indies by an innings and 79 runs. Boycott batted for five and a quarter hours but none of his colleagues matched him and England's second innings folded at 169 all out.

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Rickets campaign: The Government began a campaign to eradicate rickets among Asians in Britain

Demonstrations: MP's approve clause in Bill that demands 72 hours' notice of public demonstrations.

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 25, 26; La crème de la crème, 26; Recruitment opportunities, 25; Property, 17.

Leader page 15
Letters: On SAS and embassy siege; from Brigadier J. H. Simpson, and Dr Graham Zelik; the economy; from Professor Wynne; Canada, from Professor Healey Bull.
Leading articles: Nuclear power; El Salvador; Civil Service.
Features, pages 14, 17
Reviews: Lewis's some funny names; Ronald Butts on nationality; The Times Cook on the soup course.
Arts, page 8
Hilary Finch talks to Gilbert Dello, producer of Welsh National Opera's new Die Frau ohne Schatten; Mairin Huckerby's Arts Agenda.
Books, page 12
Anthony Quinn on Truman Capote; Barry Keating on crime; Guy Fitch on fiction; Louis Heron on Walter Lippmann.
Obituary, page 16
Mr David Garnett, Mr J. D. Cowen

Sport, pages 10, 11
Cricket: Allan Lamb available for England next year; Rugby Union: Yorkshire object to Burgess report; Badminton: Mrs Gilks withdraws from All-England championship; Football: Three players out of England under-21 party.
Stock markets, pages 18-24
Stocks: Equities again benefited from selective buying. Gilts encountered buying on hopes of a rise in M.L.R. today and the FT index closed 3.8 higher at 489.3.
Financial Editor: Dalgely resists adviser benefits; Uncertain times at BOC.
Business features: Margaret Stone looks at the role of personnel savings in funding the public sector borrowing requirement; Melvyn Westlake, in Economic Notebook, on the ups and downs of the major international currencies; Ross Davies's Business Diary.

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HOME NEWS

Slide towards national water strike gathers momentum

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The gradual move towards Britain's first national water strike continued yesterday when delegates representing 3,000 water and sewerage workers in south-east and southern England voted overwhelmingly to reject the employers' "final" offer of pay rises of 10 per cent.

Yesterday's vote, which came as an unofficial action spread in the North-east, means that more than half of the members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union employed in the industry have rejected the offer. The only reversal for the unions came from representatives of 1,500 members of the National Union of Public Employees in the Midlands, who voted to accept the offer.

It was being argued in union circles that the Midlands vote is unlikely to be representative of NUPE's 10,000 members in the industry and had been influenced by special factors such as large bonuses earned by employees of the Severn-Trent Water Authority.

Despite the Midlands vote, delegates at the conference indicated their support for an official national action called by the union leadership, including a strike. Mr Gordon Will, NUPE assistant divisional officer, said after the meeting: "It was a question of judging the offer in the light of the present unfavourable economic climate."

Yesterday's meeting of the GMWU's southern region members at Chesham, Surrey, rejected the offer by an overwhelming majority. Mr Gordon Will, NUPE's southern regional officer, said he was sure that workers in the area would support a strike call.

Peace move by BL in Jaguar plant dispute

From Clifford Webb
Midlands Industrial Correspondent

In an unexpected move last night BL Cars offered an olive branch to the leaders of its white-collar unions which could end the campaign of work sanctions in protest at compulsory redundancies.

The company said it would not proceed with the remaining 700 compulsory redundancies but the unions would agree to lift their ban on overtime, refusal to allow work to be contracted out and other restrictions on normal working.

The concession has apparently been made possible because increasing numbers of volunteers have come forward since talks broke down last week. It is understood that 200 staff have volunteered in the past 10 days.

With the 200 compulsory redundancies already announced this week, that means BL will be only 400 short of the 4,250 staff redundancies it is seeking by March 31. The management is now reasonably confident that the remaining gap will be closed before that date.

Attempts to increase the sanctions into an all-out strike at the Jaguar plant, Coventry, appear to have run out of steam. A confused meeting of 1,000 Jaguar staff ended on Tuesday without a vote being taken and attempts to call a second meeting have found little support.

The men were initially angered by the speed with which 50 Jaguar staff were made redundant. They have handed their notices on Monday and told to leave the same day.

Select committee, page 19

The centre in turmoil, 4: Signs of firm support for the social democrats from new towns

Shirley Williams territory sets the pace of change

By Michael Horsnell

Stevenage, first of the post-war new towns, does not yet possess the kind of history that would allow it to erect statues to its most eminent burgesses.

When the time arrives Shirley Williams, MP for Bedford and Stevenage until 1979, will be a strong candidate for a commemorative plaque at least, somewhere between Woolworth on the pedestrianised shopping centre and the clock tower, unveiled by the Queen in 1958.

Mrs Williams, a local heroine by any standards, may be said to have turned this raw young town in Hertfordshire into the birthplace of social democracy, as the giants of the Labour movement turned Hampstead, in London, into the intellectual home of socialism.

If the centre is in turmoil then Stevenage is in a hotbed, for a large proportion of electors from all three parties are promising to follow their "Shirley" to Timbuctoo if she should choose to go there.

Even more encouraging for the embryonic social democratic party are the indications that support for it is throughout the "soft" South-east as firm as it is in Williams territory.

At Basildon, nearly 50 miles away across the county border in Essex, nearly 35 per cent of those canvassed said they would support such a party and only 25 per cent said they would not.

But support for the social democrats in the even newer town of Basildon derives mainly from disenfranchised Labour voters and Liberals anxious to do a deal.

About one in three electors across the political board in Stevenage say they will support Mrs Williams, who has severed her connections with the local constituency Labour Party despite an emotional appeal by the party's agent, Mr James Caldwell.

Only 25 per cent of those canvassed said they would not support a new party. But that number may increase if Mrs Williams is not chosen as its leader.

Mrs Wendy Skidgins, aged 23, a housewife and mother, who voted Labour at the last election, said: "I would follow Shirley Williams to Timbuctoo, she is that good for Stevenage and the country, and I would probably vote for the social democrats even if she is not the leader. The party offers something new, away from the old extremes."

Mr Robert Walker, aged 27, a test-rig operator, who voted Liberal last time, said: "You can count me in as long as the two parties get together. Otherwise they have no chance. I would prefer David Steele to lead it but Shirley Williams would do fine."

Mr Peter Thomas, a businessman, aged 50, said: "I voted Conservative with some pleasure and I am not too happy with what they have done to my business. I could not vote for Michael Foot, but Roy Jenkins of Mrs Williams? Maybe, if the Tories do not stop cutting our throats."

Stevenage, a town with a population of 74,000 and 7.8 per cent unemployment, lies to the north-west of the Hertford and Stevenage constituency. The old county town of Hertford and the pretty villages that sit between it and the new industrial town were responsible for handing the seat to the Conservative candidate, Mr Bowen Wells, with a majority of 1,296, in 1979.

Support for Mrs Williams outside Stevenage is less certain in the sense that traditional Conservative voters are less likely to change than those Tories in Stevenage who disapproved more of her former

party ticket than of Mrs Williams herself.

But Stevenage is expected to form a new constituency under Boundary Commission proposals, a change which would almost guarantee a seat for Mrs Williams as a social democrat.

Basildon, a district whose population has increased from 30,000 in 1947 to 155,000 last year as it consumed London's postwar overspill, elected Mr Harvey Proctor, the Conservative, with a majority of 5,180 in 1979.

While the new town is substantially Labour, support for Mr Proctor comes largely from the old-established and expanding towns of Wickford and Billericay.

The home of Ford's European Trucks division, Basildon, is the second largest constituency in England and Wales and is also the subject of a Boundary Commission proposal that would make it a constituency in its own right.

With doubled unemployment in the past year, Basildon stands as a warning to the main parties, particularly Labour, not to take its difficulties lightly.

The Labour vote threatens to drift substantially to a social democratic party regardless of

its leader and regardless of the views of its former Labour MP, Mr Eric Moonman, who was unseated last time.

And Conservative women, enjoying the taste of a female Prime Minister though not the unemployment situation, are enthusiastic about the possible emergence of another woman at the helm.

Miss Joan Peters, aged 23, a secretary, said: "I voted Conservative, but not to put my boy friend out of work. I like the idea of a woman Prime Minister but Mrs Thatcher must not assume she will have my vote next time. The people here want jobs; they know they are not going to lose and a sensible mortgage rate."

Mr James Clarke, aged 73, a retired postman, approached Mrs Williams when he had trouble over his pension. She saw him and sorted out his difficulty. A Labour voter, he said: "I cannot think of a better recommendation than that for supporting her cause. I am not sure about any difference in policies, but if she stands between the two extremes and her policies mean I can pay my electricity bill then I am on her side."

Next: Geoffrey Smith sums up

LT forecast of fall in traffic share

By Jacob Ecclesstone

London Transport's share of passenger traffic in the capital is forecast to fall from its present level of 30 per cent to 25 per cent by 1990. In a report to the Commons Select Committee on Public Transport, the London Transport Executive said yesterday that demand was decreasing while costs increased.

Sir Peter Massfield, chairman of the executive, told the committee that passenger traffic had fallen by a million in the past 10 years. The reasons were greater use of private cars, a falling population and fewer tourists.

After talking of Paris, where demand for public transport was increasing because of lower fares, Sir Peter said he was not despondent. The prediction of a 25 per cent market share, he said, was 25 per cent of a growing market for travel.

When asked whether he was seeking bigger subsidies, he said that Paris was expanding its underground railway system. "Sadly for us, we have no new underground projects under way. I would like to see a policy for London that we would dig up two miles of new underground a year", he said.

Sir Peter said that whereas London Transport had to meet 70 per cent of expenditure from fares, Paris met only 34 per cent and New York 26 per cent.

The managing director of London Transport's railway division, Dr T. M. Ridley, told the committee that successful public transport systems such as those in Hong Kong, Paris and Newcastle upon Tyne, had one thing in common.

"There is a united and wholehearted commitment to public transport which does not exist in London. The local community committee is necessary to the wellbeing of the community, and that does not exist in London."

One of the main reasons for the declining use of London buses, Sir Peter told the committee, was traffic congestion. The scheduled bus speed on weekdays was declining year by year. It was now only 11mph.

BR may set-up body to run southern lines

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The possibility of a separate board to manage British Rail's Southern Region, particularly its London commuter services, is being considered by the Government, according to a report by the Secretary of State for Transport, said last night.

Speaking to *The New Standard* Commuter Club in London, Mr Fowler said that he was considering the possibility of a separate board to run the commuter services. He said that the current arrangement was not working well and that a separate board would be able to make decisions more quickly.

At present the only such body was the British Railways Board, whose responsibility was for all railway operations. That meant that London commuters could not see how far the fares they paid represented the cost of providing services, or how much of the public services operation grant was allocated to them.

"A separate board for Southern Region services would go a long way towards creating an accountable management unit with a clear responsibility for the greater part of BR's London commuter services", he said.

The grant to BR, covering both passenger and freight services, is £678m in this financial year.

Because of the complexity of its network and operations, Southern Region has always been harder to identify than those of other regions, and it is frequently claimed that it does not receive its fair share of subsidy.

The Government does not believe that the possible diversion of a larger share of the grant to the South-east would endanger passenger services elsewhere.

Despite fears of further drastic cuts, Mr Fowler insists that he has no intention of letting rural services disappear and that the emphasis will be on making them cheaper to run and more efficient.

The feeling among ministers is that if BR needs to make savings it should consider cutting some of its loss-making freight services.

'Militant' study by Labour urged

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Labour's national executive committee is being asked to release to MPs and constituency parties a submission by the Trotskyist Militant Tendency about its organisation.

The request is especially relevant because it comes from Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, who is a member of the left-wing Tribune Group of Labour MPs.

Mr Field, in a letter to Mr Ronald Hayward, general secretary of the party, states that there should be serious discussion on whether the Militant Tendency as a group can remain within the party.

He states: "It may be that some of the parliamentary NEC members has Militant calls in their constituencies. If they did, then they would be more acquainted with what was happening."

Mr Field suggests that in order for the NEC to be informed the NEC has, in its meeting next Wednesday, should be asked to send copies of the Militant submission to every MP and constituency party and invite comments.

The submission of the Militant Tendency was one of a number which the NEC requested from fringe organisations; it was circulated to committee members last December, and was disclosed in *The Times*.

Mr Field says in his letter: "By asking the NEC to act in this way I am not asking for a witch hunt against individuals. I believe that every single Militant member in my constituency has a right to be a member of the local Labour Party. But they do not have the right to organise as a party within a party."

"If the NEC would summon up the courage to act on this issue I think many Militant supporters would opt for single membership of the party. I am sure others would think differently and wish to conduct their campaign for Militancy outside the party."

Mr Field also draws attention to the fact that "there are other revolutionary groups who are now coming back into the party in a true mole-like fashion." He says that this in the range of revolutionary newspapers sold at the end of general management committee meetings.



Mr Frank Field: "Not asking for a witch hunt."

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Callaghan view sought on dinner snub

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

An appeal has been made to Mr James Callaghan to indicate whether he approves of Mr Michael Foot's exclusion of Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr William Rodgers, MP, and Dr David Owen, MP, from a dinner being given for him tonight by his former senior colleagues.

Mr Callaghan keeps his silence yesterday. Labour's so-called "gang of three", it is now learnt, challenged Mr Foot on Tuesday to say whether it was Mr Callaghan's wish to have them excluded. They also apparently sought to get in touch with Mr Callaghan, but failed, as did reporters who rang his office at the Commons.

In a letter to Mr Foot, explaining how "offensive" he had found the exclusion, Mr Rodgers declared of Mr Callaghan: "I would like to think that he has not placed a ban on me for Thursday. It is not the sort of intolerance with which he has been associated."

It was learnt that Mr Edmund Dell, who had not been invited, by Mr Foot, will not be attending.

He was another of Mr Callaghan's former Cabinet colleagues who had declared his support for the Council for Social Democracy. He had not incurred Mr Foot's displeasure because he had not been deemed to have been actively campaigning against the Labour Party.

There was astonishment, hilarity and embarrassment among Labour MPs in reaction to the disclosure in *The Times* of Mr Foot's action.

Some shadow ministers said that they were not coming. Others would not be at the dinner, if only to say goodbye; others retorted that the three had no business coming when they were intent on setting up a party which would attack Labour.

There was even applause for Mr Foot for having taken firm action. But there was agreement that it had probably spoiled the occasion for Mr and Mrs Callaghan.

Some clarifications emerged yesterday. One was that Mr Foot had not written to Mrs Williams because, so it was said, the organisers had assumed from her first uncertain reply that she was not coming. And they had not returned Mrs Williams' cheque, as they had those of the other two, because none had been received.

Mrs Williams insisted that she had all along "hoped" to attend; she had written earlier that her schedule was uncertain because of television commitments. She could not be sure that her secretary had sent a cheque. But yesterday she made clear that had it not been for the last two days she would certainly have been in touch with the organisers to confirm both her attendance and her payment.

Dr Owen, said yesterday that he and his colleagues intended to mark the occasion in their own way. They would be sending Mr Callaghan a gift as a mark of their esteem.

Ben Nevis search

A search will be started at first light today for Mr John Mercer, aged 26, of Tredgold Crescent, and Mr Geoffrey Hills, aged 22, of Holtspur Road, both Leeds, after a helicopter search failed to find them yesterday on Ben Nevis.

'Niggardly' cash support for buses attacked

By Our Planning Reporter

Government support for the British bus and coach industry was niggardly compared with that given to other European operators, Mr Ronald Whittle, president of the Confederation of British Road Passenger Transport, said last night.

When billions of pounds were being handed out to British Steel, BL and British Rail, it was right that the industry should look for some crumbs from the table, he told the confederation's annual dinner in London.

"We know that public transport has been chronically short of investment in recent years, but when will the Government and the public wake up to the fact that we carry 10 times more passengers than British Rail?"

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, claimed earlier yesterday that the lifting of restrictions on long-distance coach services had had an immediate and dramatic effect. More than 100 new express services had developed, and another 100 were due to start in the spring or summer.

The number of passengers using Victoria bus stations had doubled compared with the same period last year.

Teachers' unions say 4pc pay offer is 'insulting'

By Our Education Correspondent

Yesterday's 4 per cent pay offer by local authorities to 470,000 teachers in England and Wales was described as "ridiculous and insulting" by union leaders and has been rejected out of hand. The teachers have put in a claim for 15 per cent from April 1.

Mr Fred Jarvis, leader of the teachers' panel on the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body on teachers' pay, said that the 4 per cent offer bore no relation to what was happening anywhere else in the public sector.

He was evidently relieved, however, that the employers had made no attempt to tie any agreement on teachers' conditions of service to a pay rise, or made any mention of last year's alleged "error" in the Clegg commission on pay comparability which resulted in teachers getting 4 per cent more than the commission had intended.

Representatives of the 70,000 teachers and lecturers in Scotland are to meet the Scottish local authorities today to continue their pay negotiations. The teachers have rejected an opening offer of 6 per cent.

Mr Benn's plea to party leader dismissed

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour Party leader, delivered his first snub to Mr Wedgwood Benn at a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet last night.

The argument centred on the Shadow Cabinet's views on the election of the leader and the special conference decision that a 40 per cent share of the electoral college should go to the trade unions, with the rest divided equally between the parliamentary party and the constituency parties.

Mr Benn put forward a motion that the special conference decision should be altered. When he failed to get a second, he proposed he should be permitted to put it to the parliamentary party.

Mr Foot told him that it would be wrong for minority views to go to the Shadow Cabinet to the parliamentary party. He also dismissed Mr Benn's technical argument that he was not a frontbench spokesman and had been elected by the PLP.

The Shadow Cabinet accepted a motion from Mr Peter Shore, spokesman on Treasury affairs, who proposed that the PLP should be given half of the vote.

Although Mr Foot does not take votes in the Shadow Cabinet, there was overwhelming support for the proposal, which will now be recommended to the parliamentary party.

The PLP will undoubtedly accept it, and with the trade union support, the special conference decision, it is possible that it will be carried by the annual party conference in October.

Manchester gets Claude masterpiece

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

The Manchester City Art Gallery has acquired one of the greatest paintings by Claude Lorraine (1600-1682), the French master of classical landscape painting. It has come through a private sale from the Morrison collection and is entitled "Landscape with the Adoration of the Golden Calf".

Until recently the Morrison collection was one of the most important private collections of Old Master paintings in Europe. The pictures are held by a family trust known as the Walker Morrison Picture Settlement.

There has, however, been a steady erosion in recent years. The Claude was acquired through the agency of Colnaghi's, the Bond Street dealers. Its market valuation was set at £625,000, but after various tax deductions the gallery was required to pay only £253,956.

Civil servants expect 7.5%

Continued from page 1

already been rejected by the nine unions involved, who are in the final stages of planning a campaign of industrial action. Despite last night's cash limit announcement it was confidently expected in union circles that the Government would increase its offer to about 7½ per cent.

Union negotiators have been called in to see Lord Soames, Lord President and minister responsible for the Civil Service, on Monday, but it was not clear last night how the Government would attempt to accommodate an increased offer within the cash limit.

Delegates representing the hospital ancillary workers are also to meet tomorrow and will also be seeking an increased offer which would bring them at least into line with the local authority manual workers who settled for a 7.5 per cent increase.

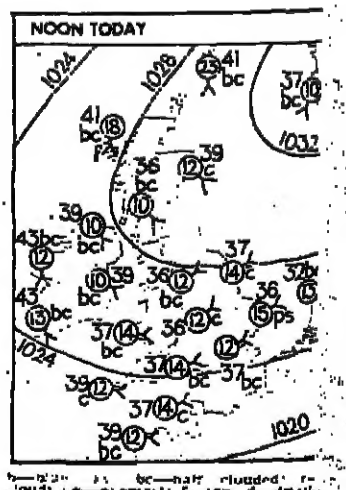
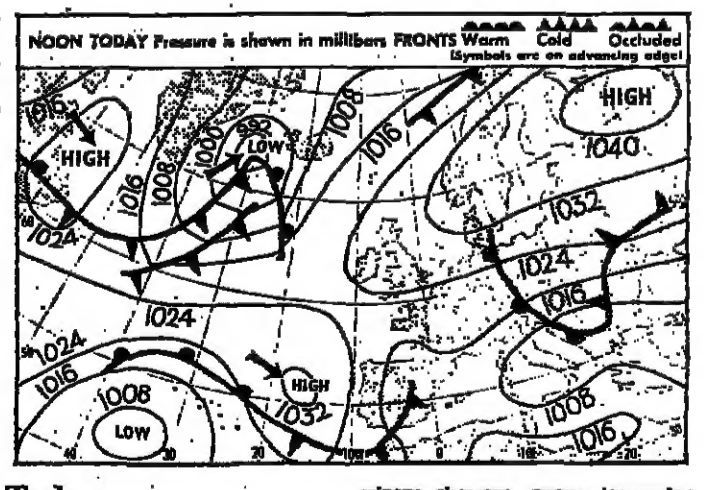
The extra 1.5 per cent is to be funded out of the rates, and as a similar recouping of the extra cost is not possible to the National Health Service, union leaders were pessimistic last night about the possibility of an improvement in the offer.

Mr Ronald Keating, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, most of whose members will be covered by the cash limit, said last night: "I regard the announcement as a prescription for conflict and demoralisation in the National Health Service."

A final decision on whether to proceed with industrial action is to be taken next Thursday. The campaign will begin with a one-day national strike, probably on March 5.

Leading article, page 15

Weather forecast and recordings



NUCLEAR ATTACK Protection for Industry

March 18th 1981 at 66, Portland Place, London.

An international seminar designed for industrial planners and businessmen wishing to learn about large scale protection of people and essential industries. The object is to help you assess what your organisation could do in the light of the possibility of nuclear war.

The seminar has been prepared by the Nuclear Protection Advisory Group (NuPAG) and will be chaired by Dr. Alexander King, CMC, CBE, DSC. Leading authorities on the subject from Europe and America will discuss the following:

- Modern weapon effects (heat, blast, radiation, chemical) • War scenarios; major attacks; limited attacks; accidents etc • Protection requirements for industry • Protection for workforce and their families • The electromagnetic pulse (EMP) threat.

(How one nuclear explosion high above the North Sea could take out communication power systems, computers, etc. • How to live through a nuclear war, personal survival • How to survive the aftermath • The Swiss and American experience • Case studies of industrial protection.

Registration fee £125 + VAT (lunch included).

Write or phone now for registration forms and programme to:

The Registrar, NuPAG Seminar, 37 Portland Road, Hove, Sussex, Brighton (0273) 738155. Please state name, position, company and address.

Former Broadmoor patient to appeal to Strasbourg

By Lucy Hodges

A former Broadmoor patient, who was later transferred to Park Lane special hospital, is to appeal to the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg against a decision in the Court of Appeal yesterday that he cannot sue the authorities for allegedly keeping him in hospital unlawfully.

This is the second case to go to Europe challenging that section of the Mental Health Act, 1959, which prevents patients from suing the health service. Both cases are being taken by MIND, the mental health charity. The first one was reported in *The Times* on December 23 last.

The Court of Appeal, with Lord Justice Lawton presiding, yesterday dismissed an appeal brought by Mr Samuel Kynaston, of Florence Street, St Helens, Merseyside, against a decision that he could not sue the Home Secretary.

Section 141 of the Mental

New department for juvenile justice proposed

By a Staff Reporter

A new department of the Home Office to deal with young offenders is proposed in a booklet published today by an independent group of probation workers.

There is no hope of creating effective provision for juvenile offenders while responsibility is divided between local authorities, the prison department of the Home Office and the probation and aftercare services, it says.

A new juvenile justice department of the Home Office should be created to deal with both custodial and community-based provision, with the task of developing imaginative non-custodial measures for juvenile offenders.

Fair Play! A balanced approach to juvenile justice (Sheila Himmel, 1st floor, 26 The Broadway, London, SW19, 4L).

Law Report, page 4

Today		Sun rises: 7.07 am		Sun sets: 5.23 pm	
		Moon sets: 7.33 am		Moon rises: 6.02 pm	
Last quarter: February 27.		Lighting up: 5.53 pm to 6.35 am		High water: London Bridge, 2.06 am	
		Low water: 7.57 am, 12.30 pm, 6.42 am		11.39 am, 9.22 pm	
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HOME NEWS

Main aim of Prime Minister to avert strike

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The desperate wish to avert a coal strike was the paramount consideration for Mrs Margaret Thatcher in agreeing, in sudden reversal of her stated policy, to consider giving extra money to the coal board.

That was frankly acknowledged last night in government quarters, where it was accepted that explaining the difference between prudent adjustment and a climbdown could pose severe difficulties.

Only eight days ago the Prime Minister had insisted that there would be no change and no intervention. At Commons question time she stated: "We have fixed the amount available for the industry. It is for the management of the National Coal Board to make the arrangements and we shall stand by those arrangements."

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, said last night on *ITV's News at Ten*: "Total inflexibility does not fit in with real life." He was defending the change of plan.

After last night's meeting it is implicit that the £886m cash limit for next year will rise, although it was denied that it would be a big increase.

There were Opposition jeers last night at the Government climbdown. Mr John Grant, frontbench spokesman on employment, said that it was a remarkable U-turn.

Some miners sceptical of closures retreat

By Richard Ford

The mood was mixed among miners at pits and social clubs last night when they heard of the National Coal Board decision not to go ahead with the closures plan. Many of them feared that they would eventually be sold out.

So high is the mistrust of government and board motives that miners were saying that the plan had just been postponed for another year.

Some, however, were more jubilant. At Mineo colliery, near Wakefield, which had been on the closure list, Mr Peter Watkins, NUM branch secretary, said that the men had grins from ear to ear.

"Many can hardly believe it. I think it is a bit of a reward for what we have done over the past few years. We have been producing more coal, we have lost men through pit closures and absenteeism has dropped tremendously."

He said he thought the men had shown the board they were united on the issue. "I think the Government and the board have had a bit of a shock at our mood, and even some of Mrs Thatcher's backbenchers have obviously been worrying about what was developing."

At Hucknall, in Nottinghamshire, Mr "Nobby" White urged caution on miners. He feared the board might have something up its sleeve which it would reveal at a later date.

"I am not celebrating yet and I will want to wait and see what our national leaders say before I think it is a good deal."

"Clear victory", Mr Joseph Whelan, general secretary of

Nottinghamshire's 34,000 miners, said last night: "It is clear victory for the National Union of Mineworkers and a total defeat for the Government and the coal board. The lady said she was not for turning but now she has become an expert in doing double somersaults" (Our Nottingham Correspondent writes).

"I am not really surprised at the news", Mr Whelan said. "We would have had the support of other trade unions and we would have intensified the picketing. That would probably have brought us into conflict with the law."

"There would not have been enough room in the jails in the land for all the miners who would go there. The Government have saved themselves the embarrassment of this situation."

Kent fears: In Kent, where miners had walked out, there were expressions of scepticism about the result of the talks and the apparent speed with which the coal board and the Government altered course (a Staff Reporter writes).

Mr Henry Garling, branch official, said: "I want to look at the small print very carefully, as my worry is that we could be in the same position in 1982. We have been through all this now. We certainly do not want to go all through it in a year's time."

Strike goes on: Orgreave colliery, at Sheffield, one of the South Yorkshire pits scheduled for closure, decided last night to start strike action, as planned (Our Sheffield Correspondent reports).



Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Joseph Gornley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, and Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board (right), outside the Department of Energy after the board withdrew its pit closure plan.



Maude plea to Tories not to lose nerve

Sir Angus Maude, the former Paymaster General, yesterday urged the Government to stick to its unpopular policies and not to lose its nerve. He warned the Conservative Party to keep off the middle ground of politics.

Sir Angus's speech to a party meeting in Ruislip contrasted with recent statements by Mr Francis Pym, who took over his post as the Government's head of information, by Lord Thorneycroft, the party chairman, and by Mr Norman St John-Stevens, the former Leader of the House.

All three had insisted that the Conservatives were the real centre party, and said that the Government's economic strategy must be adjusted to take account of mounting unemployment.

Sir Angus said yesterday: "I hope the Conservative Party is not beginning to lose its nerve. If it is, then the prospects for Britain, and particularly for industry and jobs, are gloomy indeed."

The first sign of a loss of nerve was talk about the need to occupy "the middle ground". He said: "They are doing it now."

If the social democrats were allowed to become established, they would seek ground to the left of centre to occupy. "If Conservatives try to compete for that territory they will lose, not gain, votes", Sir Angus said.

South Wales jubilant at saving of 2,800 jobs

From Tim Jones

Cardiff

Miners throughout the South Wales coalfield were jubilant last night as news of the National Coal Board's apparent retreat spread throughout the mining communities.

At Cogan colliery, whose miners spearheaded the attack against the closure programme by walking out on unofficial strike last Saturday, Mr Verdon Price, the lodge secretary, said: "Thank God that commonsense

has won the day. We did not want to bring the Government down but we were determined to fight for our jobs. Job security means more than anything."

Mr Terence Thomas, the miners' agent for west Wales, said: "My initial reaction is one of extreme pleasure. Commonsense has prevailed. If we have saved the 2,800 jobs threatened in the South Wales coalfield then I am delighted."

But miners were last night told to maintain their pickets

until told officially by the National Union of Mineworkers' executive to end their strike action.

At Britannia colliery, in Gwent, where 511 jobs were to go, Mr Thomas Bowden, the lodge secretary, said: "The strike will probably be called off. But I am worried that the closures will still take place, although more slowly."

"Mrs Thatcher's tactic now will be to try to buy us off, but we will not fall for it. It is all

very well to buy cheap foreign coal, but that is like relying on oil from the Arabs in the 1960s."

Scottish reaction: In Scotland, where it had been announced that three pits were to close, a miners' official at Carduwan, near Glasgow, the largest of the three, said the men were delighted with the withdrawal of the closure plan, but would not be calling off their strike until the special delegates' conference in Edinburgh tomorrow.

conferece in Edinburgh tomorrow.

Stockpiling has some weaknesses

Power stations face bigger threat from water strike

By Peter Hennessy

Big coal-burning power stations, the backbone of the national grid, could have withstood a siege of picketing miners for between eight and ten weeks had a national coal strike occurred.

The power supply industry is much more worried about the prospect of a national water strike. Should water supplies be cut off, power stations would be affected swiftly and output could be drastically reduced within two to three weeks.

To feed its boilers, a large coal-burning power station needs a very pure supply, far purer than drinking water. To achieve the necessary quality mains water is treated on site. Chlorine is one of the essential supplies stockpiled.

Since the national miners' strike of 1972, when the National Union of Mineworkers sent flying pickets to power stations up and down the country with great effect, strategic supplies have been stockpiled and kept on site to enable power stations to hold out for two months.

Slack demand this winter caused by the recession has meant that many of the 2,000 megawatt stations are operating only three of their four turbines and the period of self-sufficiency could be stretched to 10 weeks.

Other vital materials in the strategic reserve sustained as a part of routine contingency planning are fuel oil, needed for damping down and restarting furnaces, oxy-acetylene for maintenance staff, and hydrogen, required for cooling activators.

Hydrogen proved especially vulnerable to picketing miners in 1972. Since then it has been the policy of the Central Electricity Generating Board to install equipment for producing hydrogen on site.

The board could have made its coal supplies last even longer in a protracted miners' strike by making more intensive use of its oil-burning stations, many of which are working at half load because of reduced demand.

In the recent past coal reserves in the power stations have been below the eight-week level at this time of the year. But thanks to the recession and good deliveries from the coalfields, the electricity board has never been better placed to hold out against industrial action by workers outside the electricity supply industry, with the exception of the water workers.

The board's position is far stronger than in February, 1972. Contingency plans were radically revised after the miners' strike nine years ago.

Labour councils to set up new policy group

By Christopher Werman

Local Government Correspondent

Leading members of the Labour Party in local government are to launch an association of Labour councillors on March 2 with the object of giving councillors a greater say in party policy, and co-ordinating the efforts of Labour groups in opposition to government's policies.

At a meeting at Blackpool last weekend during the Labour party local government conference a group of senior councillors rejected any proposals to bind candidates for council elections by loyalty oaths.

They also stated that policy differences should be settled within the party and that "to leave the party if one loses the argument is defeatist as well as divisive".

Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, one of the instigators of the new association, said yesterday that the response had been tremendous, and that more than 70 authorities had made firm commitments to join.

He added that it was not an organization of moderates. "It is neither right nor left. We are going to stay in the party, but we are trying to demonstrate that we are not going to be puppets of the local Labour parties. We want to emphasise that we will act responsibly and fight for the party."

Mr Smart said the association was being formed because of lack of support to Labour councils and groups for the party's national executive committee, and the regional and local government sub-committee between September, 1979, and February 1981.

Radical changes proposed in hospital staffing

By a Staff Reporter

Proposals for radical changes in the hospital staffing structure were put by doctors yesterday to the Commons select Committee on Social Services.

The proposals, from the Joint Consultants Committee, would lead to quotas being set by the Department of Health on the number of registrars health authorities could appoint in over-subscribed specialties such as general medicine and surgery.

More consultants would be appointed in these fields, with fewer junior staff under them, with the intention of establishing more training posts for junior doctors in under-subscribed specialties such as pathology, radiology and some branches of psychiatry.

Competition for posts for training in surgery and other popular specialties was excessive and leading to an unacceptable level of wastage, the committee, which is investigating medical education, was told. For some posts there were as many as 80 applicants.

It was also told that too many junior training posts had too great a service commitment to the National Health Service and provided little training.

Overseas doctors, who make up a large proportion of junior hospital staff, suffered particularly, filling posts with poor training facilities and having little likelihood of receiving further training.

The consultants committee proposed some form of control on the numbers of overseas doctors to ensure that they received proper training. Such doctors should have to make arrangements to have a training post before coming to Britain

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Existing accounts Send deposits with your bank book to the above address. No coupon or covering letter is required. Your book will be returned to the address in the book - please make sure it is your current address, and keep a note of your account number.

Fill in for new accounts only.

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SURNAME: MRS MRS/MISS

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AMOUNT DEPOSITED: POUNDS PENCE

I declare that the information given by me on this form is correct.

USUAL SIGNATURE: (If child under 7, signature of person opening account.)

If you hold any other NSB Account(s), please quote account number(s):

Forces' strength still rising

The total strength of the Armed Forces continues to rise but shortages of suitable candidates in certain key categories are a cause for concern, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday.

In spite of a high level of applications there were shortages of Royal Navy full-career engineer officers and seamen and RAF officer entrants to navigator, engineer, administra-

tive (education), general ground duties and medical branches.

At the end of last December there were 333,915 men and women in the Services, 13,000 more than at March 31, 1980.

The Royal Navy's strength at the end of December was 65,798, which was 1,500 higher than at the end of March 1979: the Army's 167,311 (8,000 higher than in the previous December); the RAF's 92,977 (up 4,500).

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NSB Ordinary Account deposits should be made at the post office; please note that the new Save-by-Post service is for NSB Investment Accounts only.

HOME NEWS

Early warning system proposed to detect hazardous chemicals

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The chemicals industry was strongly critical of a proposal issued by the Health and Safety Commission yesterday for a statutory early warning system to detect health hazards from new substances.

The recommendation, contained in a consultative document, would require central notification of new chemicals before they were placed on the market.

Mr Ray Grainger, head of the public affairs directorate of the Chemical Industries Association, said that the proposals would jeopardize British industry. The requirements, he said, went further than those of an EEC directive to be enforced by the end of the year.

The purpose of the proposed system is to obtain information about materials marketed in quantities of one tonne or more a year.

Additional provisions would cover intermediate compounds used in the manufacture of such products as pesticides, plastics and drugs.

Some of the worst examples of pollution have been caused by the release of such agents, formed temporarily during a reaction. The most infamous is perhaps the dioxin that contaminated Seveso, in Italy.

The suggested regulations would give an early warning to the Health and Safety Executive and to the Department of the Environment about threats

to health and to the environment.

The consultative document says that the production of synthetic organic chemical compounds rose from seven million tonnes in 1950 to about 63 million tonnes in 1977.

The variety of chemical agents being made is not known with accuracy; estimates are of 20,000 to 30,000 compounds manufactured in amounts exceeding one tonne a year.

The early warning system would be restricted to new products. An estimate of £45,000 at present prices is put on the costs of laboratory testing needed to satisfy the notification procedure. Manufacturers and importers would have to test all new substances they intended to sell in Britain.

A minimum package of data would be required by the Health and Safety Executive, relating to scale of manufacture, usage and properties of each substance, at least 45 days before a formulation was placed on the market.

The company would be free to select the methods of testing, provided they met the standards of the safety authorities. A set of codes of practice is suggested setting out test methods that include procedures for determining not only properties such as acute and chronic mammalian toxicity, irritancy, teratogenicity and carcinogenicity (agents likely to cause birth defects and cancer), but also harm to fish and other living things.

Notification of New Substances (Stationary Office, £2.50).

Labour wants to give wider access to Ombudsman

By a Staff Reporter

A one-clause Bill going through the House of Commons is causing friction between the two main parties because of the Opposition's policy on race relations and immigration.

The Parliamentary Commissioner [Consular Complaints] Bill states that only those people with a right of appeal to the Ombudsman can complain to the Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman) about consular matters.

The Labour Party said yesterday that it would be putting down an amendment to extend that right of appeal to some people outside Britain.

The difficulty as Mr Roland Moyle, a Labour spokesman on foreign affairs, sees it, is that under the Bill only patrials, those people in Australia, New Zealand and Canada with a

parent or grandparent born in Britain, can make complaints to the Ombudsman. That group is mainly white.

But the Bill does not allow East African Asians and those in the Indian subcontinent with citizenship of the United Kingdom and colonies that right of appeal.

The former Labour government supported the Bill, but the Labour Opposition says it is discriminatory.

The Select Committee on the Parliamentary Commissioner Bill in 1977 that British citizens abroad in the United Kingdom should be able to complain to the Ombudsman. Yesterday the Conservatives said that if the Bill was extended there would be many more complaints to the Ombudsman.

MPs uphold demand for notice of marches

By Frances Gibb

A controversial clause in the Greater Manchester Bill which makes it a criminal offence for organisers of marches not to give the police 72 hours' notice has been upheld by a Commons committee of MPs.

The MPs, under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Hamilton, Conservative member for Salisbury, ruled yesterday after a two-day hearing of arguments from its promoters and opponents that the clause should stay in the Bill.

The Bill is being put forward by the Conservative-controlled Greater Manchester Council and the chief supporter of the clause, which also allows for spontaneous demonstrations provided they are notified as soon as it is reasonably possible, is Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester.

The National Council for Civil Liberties, which led opposition to the clause from 16 MPs and 16 community groups, including Manchester Trades Council and Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, said yesterday: "It is a sad day for peaceful protest and the right to demonstrate in Manchester."

The Commons committee overruled objections from all the groups, who had argued that a new criminal offence was unnecessary in practice and would be a public order should be considered as national legislation rather than in a local bill, they said.

In the House of Lords the clause, originally requiring seven days' notice, was amended to 72 hours, and it will now proceed as part of the Bill through the Commons.

Mr Stanley Orme, Labour MP for Salford, West, and one of the chief opponents, told the committee: "It is an extremely concerning that we are getting legislation in different forms in this country through private Bills, with some notice requirements of seven days, some three, some 24 hours, at the pressure of the chief constables."

He could not think of a single instance of serious public disorder at marches that could have been prevented by giving 72 hours' notice.

The Home Office told the committee that a national code of practice on notice requirements for marches was being considered.

A code of practice is contained in the Greater Manchester Bill, which opponents argued would place marchers under the control of the police to supply to police a great deal of detailed information. The code of practice, they said, would be seen as having the status of law.

The Labour march will be led by Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, and is expected to draw about 20,000 people.



Photograph by Brian Harris

Mr Harold Macmillan holding one of the 20 volumes of the "New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians", which is published today after 12 years of work. Each set costs £850. Review, page 12.

New Front protest against IRA

From Our Correspondent
Glasgow

Mr Patrick Hamill, Strathclyde's Chief Constable, has given permission for the New National Front to hold a march in Glasgow on Saturday. On that day the Scottish Council of the Labour Party will march against unemployment.

Mrs Isobel Skinner, the organization's Glasgow secretary, said yesterday that the New National Front was a completely different organization, with changed policies from the National Front. "It has a much stronger moral fibre," she said.

"The march is a protest against the IRA. It will have a double slogan 'Smash the IRA' and 'Ulster is British for ever'."

The Labour march will be led by Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, and is expected to draw about 20,000 people.

Legal move over £7m repairs to hospital

From a Staff Reporter
Cardiff

The Welsh Office has now revealed that a much larger restoration programme is to be carried out to save the building from deterioration. The work is needed because steel rods which reinforce the structure are in many places too close to the concrete surface, leading to serious corrosion. In some places the concrete is crumbling.

Work on two blocks of nurses' flats and one ward in the hospital, which has 836 beds, is to be started as soon as possible.

The main contractors involved in the construction of the hospital, F. G. Minter, has gone into liquidation.

Only 40% of babies are fully immunized, report says

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

It was unlikely that more than 40 per cent of babies were fully immunized and screened by the time they were a year old, it was suggested in a Community Health Council report in Birmingham yesterday.

The Central Birmingham Community Health Council commissioned a study into parents' perceptions of child health services in two contrasting areas of the city, the outer suburb of Quinton and the inner area of Small Heath.

The report stated: "Our results suggest that the number of children who are fully immunized and fully screened is small, and even on the basis of our limited sample we can say with 99 per cent statistical confidence that 5 out of 10 children could do better as far as child health services go. In simple language, if a survey of the whole population was conducted we would be surprised if more than 40 per cent turned out to be fully immunized and screened by the time they were a year old. This is the nature of the challenge."

"There are potentially tragic consequences if any of the basic elements of prevention and surveillance are missed. TB, polio, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough are still potentially disabling or fatal diseases and immunized children may get them."

Parents were asked about family doctor services, care for the antenatal, birth and postnatal periods, common immunizations and other aspects of child development. Results were analysed by social class, housing type, race, place of postnatal appointment and time of first antenatal attendance.

The report continued: "We are concerned that few patients had an opportunity to discuss the health of their baby with their GP. Child health clinics may be the 'proper' place for such discussions, but our evidence suggests that many parents look to their GP for advice."

"Furthermore our study seems to show that those who are most vulnerable rely most on the GP as their entry to the health care system. They have least opportunity to discuss their child's health, and are most likely to be worried about

the health of the child. Even though the numbers in our study are small the findings are highly suggestive of a fragile situation. There can surely be no clearer argument for the need to see whether the GP is planning and delivering child health services."

Mr Steven Burkenan, the council secretary, said: "This clearly shows that in central Birmingham at least there is a long way to go before child health services are truly marked for them by the report of the committee chaired by Professor Donald Court. We believe that health authorities from Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State, downwards should look closely at what can be done to provide the resources to improve local child health services."

Consequent upon section 33(2) of the Housing Act 1980, the Secretary of State made the Secure Tenancies (Notices) Regulations, 1980.

Having given notice to the tenants the council had taken possession proceedings. The judge had said that section 33(2) did not expressly give power to the Secretary of State to make regulations. It did so only by implication and that was not sufficient. He said that the regulations should have been made by the Secretary of State, and that whether he was right or wrong, it was essential that a higher court should pronounce on the question.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that before the Housing Act, 1980, local authority tenants did not have the protection of the Rent Act, one of the objects of the Act was to give security of tenure to public sector tenants.

The court, however, could make an order for the council to make one of the grounds of the Act in Part 1 of Schedule 4 to the Act which included non-payment of rent fully due by section 33(1) the local authority had to give notice to the tenant, and the notice had to fulfil the conditions in section 33(2).

Section 33(2) provides: "(1) The court shall not entertain proceedings for the possession of a dwelling-house let under a secure tenancy... unless the landlord has served on the tenant a notice complying with the provisions of this section."

"(2) A notice under this section must be in a form prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State and must specify the ground on which the court will be asked to make an order for possession of the dwelling-house... and give particulars of that ground."

Section 15(1) reads: "Any power of the Secretary of State to make an order or regulations under this Act shall be exercisable by statutory instrument subject to annulment in whole or in part by resolution of either House of Parliament."

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Study shows widening gap in pupils' ability

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Evidence that the big gap between the reading attainment of pupils of West Indian origin and white British pupils gets wider as the children move up through the school system comes in a report published today in the journal of the National Foundation for Educational Research.

The report, by Christine Mabey, of the Inner London Education Authority's research branch, gives the results of a longitudinal study involving some 1,500 West Indian pupils, 12,500 white British pupils and 1,300 other non-British pupils in inner London schools, to whom standardized reading tests were given at the ages of 8, 10 and 15.

The mean reading test score of West Indian pupils at the age of eight was 88, 10 points behind the score for white British pupils and also lower than the score for all other ethnic groups, save Greek and Turkish Cypriots. The national average score for the test is 100.

By the age of 15 the score for West Indian pupils had fallen to 86, while that for all other groups, including the white British children, had either remained about a quarter or improved slightly. The score for Pakistani children had jumped four points to 95.

It had been noticed that immigrant children who had started school in Britain at five or younger had markedly higher attainment than those who were newly arrived.

It was therefore hypothesized that the longer the education in this country, the greater the improvement that would be found. That was not the case for West Indian pupils, however.

On all the indicators collected, West Indian pupils emerged as very socially deprived. Their parents were overwhelmingly in working-class occupations, and a disproportionate number were in families that were large, poor, or had only one parent.

A large proportion of West Indian children were also found to attend schools in educational priority areas, so called on account of the concentration of social and educational disadvantage within which they had to contend.

However, the report says that the low attainment of West Indian pupils could not be entirely "explained" by their home and school backgrounds. Even when the scores were adjusted to take account of such factors, nearly half the 10-point difference between West Indian and indigenous white pupils remained unaccounted for.

Teachers' perceptions of West Indian and indigenous white British children differed markedly. At the age of eight about a quarter of West Indians and nearly half the white British were rated as having good relations with other pupils and teachers, and as having a good attitude to school work.

The report points out that for most children the broad level of attainment was settled by the age of eight.

Police stop Labour MPs' protest outside Parliament

A demonstration by Labour MPs protesting at government housing policy was split up by the police outside Parliament yesterday.

The MPs, who had banners and placards, were told by the police that demonstrations around the Palace of Westminster were restricted under a by-law.

Inspector Derek Bradburn asked about sixty MPs to take their placards down and to continue the march "in small groups".

Mr Gerald Kaufman, MP for Manchester, Ardwick, and Labour's main environment spokesman, said: "The police were reminding us of a regulation about demonstrations in the vicinity of the House of Commons, so naturally we paid

great attention to what they said and thanked them for reminding us."

The MPs, including Mr David Ennals and Mr Eric Heffer, marched less than a mile from the Commons to the Department of the Environment, where they handed in letters of protest.

Their placards showed housing cuts and the number of people on housing lists in their constituencies.

Mr Frank Ailman, MP for Salford, East, and chairman of Labour's housing subcommittee, said: "The misery that has been caused by the cuts is due not to the town hall but to Whitehall, and the idea of this protest is to draw attention to the real guilty man, particularly the guilty man, Mr Heseltine."

Commons, so naturally we paid

Tenants storm meeting and halt rent rises

Proposed rent rises of £3.80 a week were halted when 300 council tenants stormed a meeting of Nottinghamshire County Council at Newark yesterday.

Their interruptions prevented a vote on the increases. 40 per cent rise: Council rents in the Newark district of Sussex will rise by 40 per cent in April. Tenants will pay from £1.74 to £4.53 a week more. The average rise will be about £3.16.

Campaign to end rickets among Asians

By Nicholas Timmins

The Government began a campaign yesterday intended to eradicate rickets among Asians in the United Kingdom.

Between 5 and 10 per cent of the 900,000 Asians in Britain are estimated to suffer from rickets, or the adult form of the disease, osteomalacia. Children with the disease have bowed legs and swollen wrists, and in adults backache and brittle bones.

The disease, caused by a

shortage of vitamin D, is rare among white children in Britain and among adults in the United Kingdom. It is caused by a lack of vitamin D, which is found in fish, such as herring and mackerel, and in fortified margarine and butter.

Dr Vaughan was challenged at the press conference by Mr Fazal Awan, president of the Standing Conference of Pakistani Organizations, to take action to ensure that Asians felt secure to go outside. Dr Vaughan said that there was a general difficulty of safety and security in the home. "Certainly we regard this very seriously."

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Law Report February 18 1981

No bad faith by Home Secretary

Kynaston v Secretary of State for Home Affairs and Another. Before Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Evershed and Sir David Cairns.

Where a patient had been detained in a mental hospital under orders made pursuant to sections 60 and 65 of the Mental Health Act, 1959, and then released on an opinion from the advisory board that he remained a manipulative psychopath incapable of learning from experience there was no sound reason why the Home Secretary declined to consent to an absolute discharge notwithstanding that there was no evidence of a medical officer had stated that he was no longer suffering from mental disorder.

Their Lordships dismissed an appeal by the applicant, Mr Samuel Vaughan Kynaston, now living in a hostel in St Helens, Lancashire, from the refusal of Judge Fay, sitting as a deputy High Court Judge, to grant him leave under section 141 of the Act to institute proceedings against the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Security for detaining him against his will in a high security mental hospital from June 23, 1976, to August 5, 1977.

Section 141(2) provides: "No civil or criminal proceedings shall be brought against any person in any court in respect of any act done in pursuance of this Act without the leave of the High Court and the High Court shall not give leave unless satisfied that there is a substantial ground for the contention that the person to be proceeded against has acted in bad faith or without reasonable care."

Mr J. Melville Williams, QC, and Mr Kieran Rafferty for Mr Kynaston; Mr Simon D. Brown for the ministers.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the Divisional Court made an order in 1972 sending the applicant to Broadmoor under section 60 of the Mental Health Act. The court was satisfied that he was suffering from a mental disorder of a nature or degree warranting his detention in a hospital for medical treatment and had regard to his character and antecedents. The court also made an order under section 65, unlimited in time, restricting his discharge from hospital. It must be shown that the restriction was necessary to protect the public.

According to a report in 1979

by a consultant in forensic psychiatry, who seemed to have sight of the applicant's records for 1972, he had a grossly psychotic personality, with a tendency to drug and alcohol abuse which resulted in a psychotic state. In 1978, the Parliamentary Commissioner reported that Kynaston was suffering from a mental disorder, that he was a manipulative psychopath, that he was a danger to himself and others, and that he was a danger to the public.

His Lordship said that in 1972 the applicant was undoubtedly suffering from a mental disorder. His psychotic symptoms were florid and as long as they continued he was a danger to the public and to himself. He was not, however, susceptible to treatment.

In September, 1975, after he had been transferred to a hospital near Liverpool, the respondent Dr Neville recommended his conditional discharge and on June 23, 1976, his absolute discharge on the ground that he was no longer suffering from a mental disorder within the meaning of the Act.

The applicant alleged that from June 23, 1976, until August 5, 1977, he was unlawfully detained in a hospital under the control of the Secretary of State for Health and that his detention was brought about by the Home Secretary's refusal without good cause to accept Dr Neville's opinion that he was no longer suffering from a mental disorder. The judge refused the application, and the applicant now appealed.

Section 141 provides protection for acts done in pursuance of the Act unless such acts were done in bad faith or without reasonable care. When considering whether or not the Home Secretary acted in bad faith or without reasonable care, the court has to consider the evidence on which the Home Secretary acted.

Parliament had appreciated that the public might require special protection from some patients. The higher courts were given jurisdiction to identify such patients and to impose special restrictions upon them (section 65). Once such restrictions were imposed, it was for the Home Secretary to determine whether or not they should be continued, and to accept the opinion of the responsible medical officer or the decision of a mental health review tribunal.

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The Mental Health Act imposed upon the Home Secretary the duty of weighing all the evidence about a patient's mental condition and of deciding whether or not to make an order for his detention. It was an opinion from the advisory board that the patient remained a manipulative psychopath incapable of learning from experience that there were good reasons why the Home Secretary declined to consent to an absolute discharge.

Counsel had called in aid article 5(1)(c) of the European Convention on Human Rights, which stated that everyone had the right to liberty and security of person but accepted the lawful detention of persons of unsound mind. But it provided no guide as to who was to decide whether a patient was of unsound mind. The Mental Health Act, which prevailed over the Convention, provided that the decision should be made by the Home Secretary when a patient was subject to special restrictions.

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Minister's Housing Act regulations valid

Wansbeck District Council v Charlton and Another. Before Lord Justice Evershed and Lord Justice Fox.

Section 33(2) of the Housing Act 1980, empowers the Secretary of State for the Environment to make regulations to determine the form of notice to be served on a secure tenant under section 33(1) of the Act, and the Secure Tenancies (Notices) Regulations 1980 (SI 1980 No 1339), which came into operation on September 5, 1980, are valid.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by Wansbeck District Council against an order made by Judge Lyall Wilkes at City County Court on January 22 holding that the Secretary of State for the Environment had no power to make the regulations and that the county court had no jurisdiction to hear the council's application for an order for possession of the house in East Green, Choppington, Northumberland, let by the council to the defendants, Mr Frederick Charlton and Mrs Jacqueline Charlton, whose occupancy was a secure tenancy within the meaning of section 28 of the Housing Act, 1980.

Section 33 provides: "(1) The court shall not entertain proceedings for the possession of a dwelling-house let under a secure tenancy... unless the landlord has served on the tenant a notice complying with the provisions of this section."

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HOME NEWS

Judge orders 16 foreign airlines to hand over £2m withheld in Heathrow landing fees dispute

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Sixteen foreign airlines were ordered yesterday to hand over to the British Airports Authority an estimated £2m in increased landing charges they have been withholding. Mr Justice Parker ruled in the High Court that it should be paid in 21 days.

Since November the airlines have been paying the increases into an interest-bearing account in protest at the 35 per cent rise at Heathrow airport, London, from April last year.

They are to challenge the increases in a High Court action due to begin next year.

The judge said yesterday that if the airlines continued to withhold the increases, travellers and other Heathrow users could eventually be affected. The increases would amount to about £14m by the time the High Court action was heard.

As a result the airports authority, if it was to pursue its Heathrow expansion, would have to exceed borrowing limits, and it could not do that without government consent.

The judge said that the effect of the airlines continuing to withhold the money would be complex and difficult to quantify. Even if the authority was granted increased borrowing limits, that might not be sufficient.

The airlines had been paying the withheld money into the bank account not out of generosity or any sense of fair play, but as security against having their aircraft detained by the authority under its Civil Aviation Act powers, he said.

"In the light of the apparent uselessness of sterilizing large sums of money, I invited the airlines to consider whether they would be prepared, pending trial, to pay direct to the authority as all other operators are doing. But they were not prepared to do so. They claimed they had landing and operating rights, whether they paid or not."

The airports authority, and the Secretary of State for Trade, who is also a party to the action as having overall control of the airport, denied there was "a right to land."

Scots trawlermen urged to go back to sea

Scots fishermen's leaders again tried to persuade trawlermen to go back to sea yesterday as government officials examined the industry's demands for £120m aid to avert bankruptcies.

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has appealed to fishermen to end their protest over cheap fish imports, saying it might damage their case when it is discussed in Cabinet.

The Scottish fishermen were yesterday given a progress report on the meeting on Tuesday between their leaders and Mr Walker and Mr George Younger, the Scottish Secretary of State.

More than 800 boats are still tied up in Scottish ports and militant skippers have threatened to extend their blockade to North Sea oil supply ships if the Government does not take action soon.

Mr Walker has announced that he is making available £370,000 in Scottish fishermen, with a further £1.1m to come in the next few days, which will almost exhaust the Government's £37.5m fishing aid fund.

Bill on indecent displays aims beyond front men

By Our Parliamentary Staff

An amendment to the Indecent Displays (Control) Bill will widen the liability for prosecution to anybody causing or permitting such displays in public.

Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove, and sponsor of the Bill, which is likely to become law, successfully moved the amendment yesterday in standing committee. It is aimed at ensuring that the people most responsible for indecent displays "cannot get away by leaving the rap to be taken by some front man."

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, supported the amendment and said it would make it abundantly clear that the purpose of the Bill was to catch not only the person immediately responsible for making an indecent display, such as a sex shop manager, but also the person who had employed the manager to make the display, such as a company director or shop owner.

But Dr Shirley Summerskill, Labour MP for Halifax and an opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that despite the amendment the Bill was still extremely vague and the police would be reluctant to prosecute because of its uncertainty.

She wanted to widen the liability for prosecution to include the freehold owner of premises where there was an indecent display in public. To do so would act as a deterrent.

Mr Mayhew said that Dr Summerskill's proposal went too far because in many cases landlords had no control over what happened in the premises they let.

Defendant admits murder

Another defendant in the handless corpse trial pleaded guilty at Lancaster Crown Court yesterday to the murder of Martin Johnston, an international drugs dealer.

The change of plea came from Frederick Russell, aged 39, of Kentish Town, London, on the third day of the trial. Mr Russell has already admitted two drug conspiracy charges, which he faces with 11 other defendants.

The judge said he was satisfied that he was entitled to grant the injunction sought by the airports authority and that on the balance of convenience it should be granted pending trial of the airlines' action.

If the airlines eventually succeeded in their action they could recover the overpaid sums from the authority. The granting of the injunction could therefore do no harm.

Parties on both sides were warned that the dispute between them was sub judice, and would be tried in the courts and not in the press.

The judge said: "There must therefore be no repetition of the resort to press releases, or even more limited statements, such as have occurred since the issue of the writ. If there is, the consequences to those offenders may be very serious."

The airlines involved are: Air Canada, Air France, Air India, Air Mauritius, Alitalia, BWIA International, Lufthansa, Flying Tiger, Gulf Air, Iberia, KLM, Saudi, Scandinavian, Swissair, Trans Mediterranean and TWA.

In brief

Seven saved from helicopter in sea

Seven men escaped and were rescued yesterday after a Royal Navy Sea King helicopter crashed into the sea in Falmouth Bay off Cornwall, and turned turtle.

The helicopter, from Culdrose, was on a training flight when the pilot reported engine difficulties. A safety boat accompanying the helicopter and two Westcoast helicopters which were in the area picked up the crew. One man was slightly injured.

Boy murder charge

Heather Sokell, aged 21, a nursemaid, was remanded in custody by magistrates at Hampstead, London, yesterday charged with the murder of James Long, aged seven months, at his home in Dartmouth Park Road, Kentish Town, north London, on February 13.

Strychnine warning

An urgent warning was issued yesterday after strychnine was stolen from a chemist's shop in Maybury Road, Woking, Surrey. Police feared it could be mistaken for cocaine.

It was in an amber glass jar marked with a skull and crossbones.

Director's suicide

A formal verdict of suicide was recorded at the inquest at Cheltenham yesterday on Mr Graham Moon, aged 36, the dismissed managing director of Severn Sound commercial radio station, who was found dead in his car last Monday.

Rugby tickets forged

Scotland Yard said yesterday that forged tickets for the England v France rugby match on March 21 had been found and there might be forgeries for next Saturday's match against Scotland at Twickenham. They are mainly £2 standing tickets.

Youths sought after fire

Two youths were being sought by police yesterday after fire destroyed a club at Clifton, Nottingham, where a teenage discotheque had been held. The damage was estimated at £30,000.

Foiling hoaxers

Equipment that can locate the source of radio messages has been installed by Solent coastguards at the Needles, Isle of Wight. It can check Mayday calls and so eliminate hoax messages.

Firemen overcome

Nineteen firemen needed hospital treatment yesterday after being overcome by fertilizer fumes at Metley Farm, West Ogwell, near Newton Abbot, Devon.

WEST EUROPE

Bonn panel examines financing of Tornado

Bonn, Feb 18.—A West German parliamentary panel launched an official investigation today into the handling by 1981 of the Tornado multi-role combat aircraft project.

The move came after press reports that the Defence Ministry expected a DM800m (£160m) shortfall next year in funds for the project, a joint development by West Germany, Britain and Italy.

Herr Apel, already admitted that ministry cost estimates for the Tornado project in 1980 and 1981 were a total of DM1,300m too low. Reports of a further budgeting error have revived speculation about his chances of political survival.

The Bundestag defence committee held only a brief meeting today to adopt formally the role of a commission of inquiry. The first working session is due on March 19.

Herr Werner Marx, an opposition Christian Democrat, who is chairman of the defence committee, will head the inquiry.

West Germany plans to put 322 of the swing-wing aircraft into operation by 1988, at a projected cost of DM22,000m. Britain has ordered 385 Tornados, and Italy 100.—Reuters.

Britain expects end to restrictions on Gibraltar 'soon'

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain hopes for an end to Spanish restrictions against Gibraltar "very soon," it was confirmed yesterday. But what MPs wanted to know, when the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs discussed the matter, was when the Spanish Government was going to act.

"Why has nothing been done when we thought it would be done?" Mr Anthony Kershaw, chairman of the committee, put it.

Yesterday the questions were taken by a high-powered team of Foreign Office officials, as distinct from ministers, and the answers given were so diplomatic and so carefully wrapped that it would be hard to predict when things would return to normal for Gibraltar.

"In the first instance it must be for the Spanish Government to explain the reasons for the delay in implementation of the Lisbon agreement," the MPs were told.

Under this agreement, Spain was to open the frontier and negotiations would then start on the problems concerning Gibraltar. Britain was ready to carry out its side of the bargain last June. But the Spanish Government—though it stands by the agreement—has not been ready to do its part yet.

The officials spoke of administrative problems, perhaps more complex than the Spanish had expected. Equally, there had been governmental changes in Madrid. "Other wise," the officials noted, "we would prefer not to assess the reasons, which are for the Spanish Government to assess."

Mr Peter Mills, Conservative MP for Devon West, took the Foreign Office to task for referring to "the Gibraltar problem." "It is not. It is a Spanish problem," he declared. "The people of Gibraltar have not caused any difficulties."

"The point was taken gracefully." If using a form of shorthand gave the impression it was 50-50, then we would not wish to give that impression.

What it came down to, it appeared, was that Britain was seeking "an act of faith" by the Spanish Government in carrying out the Lisbon agreement. "It seems reasonable to ask them to make it, as they imposed the restrictions," the Foreign Office believes.

So far as Spain's application to join the European Community was concerned, the idea that two countries in the Community could have a closed border was described as "unthinkable." Gibraltar is in the EEC already. There is no problem, therefore, about its status.

Exports cut threatens Yugoslavia's EEC link

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 18

Relations between the EEC and Yugoslavia, supposedly on a new footing since the signing of a preferential trade agreement last year, have been soured by French and Irish insistence on a severe cut in Yugoslav exports to Greece.

At a meeting of foreign ministers of the Ten in Brussels yesterday, France and Ireland argued that as a member of the EEC, Greece must observe the rules of "Community preference."

Under last February's trade agreement, Yugoslavia was given the right to export 34,800 tonnes of "baby beef"—a specialized product between veal and mature beef—a year to the old EEC of Nine at a preferential tariff.

Before joining the EEC at the beginning of this year, Greece had been importing about 40,000 tonnes of beef a year from Yugoslavia. The European Commission had proposed that this trade should continue at a level of 30,000 tonnes, bringing total Yugoslav beef exports to the enlarged Community to just under 65,000 tonnes.

With the exception of France and Ireland, member states were prepared to accept this proposal. But the French wanted Yugoslav exports to Greece to be limited to a maximum of 3,000 tonnes, while the Irish would not go higher than 7,000 tonnes.

Other member states are amazed that the French and the Irish should want to risk damaging the EEC's politically sensitive relations with Yugoslavia for the sake of a few thousand tonnes of beef.

Italy faces declining population

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Feb 18

Myths as a rule die hard in Italy, but not the idea of the happy family pulsating with plenty of babies, judging from the applause a group of economists and ecologists here tonight gave to the news that for the first time for centuries in an era of peace the Italian population has ceased to grow and may actually be falling.

A sharp drop in the birth-rate of course is now common in European countries. Both the French and Germans are worried about it. The point which emerged in tonight's discussions at the Institute for Demographic Research was that a sharp fall was the only hope for a solution of Italy's economic and social crisis and that of Europe as a whole.

The discussion group comprises Signor Francesco Forte, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, Indro Montanelli, Signor Fulco Pratesi, chairman of the World Wildlife Fund, Signor Domenico de Masi, who teaches sociology at Rome University, and Signor

Luigi de Marchi, chairman of the Institute for Demographic Research.

Signor de Marchi pointed out that for 30 years the controversy between supporters and opponents of birth control had been concentrated on its necessity or otherwise for countries of the Third World.

In recent years the idea had been gaining ground that the industrialized world would need a drastic reduction in population in order to face the crisis threatening to involve the whole of Europe.

Density of population was a grave problem, so much so that the Italian population in terms of consumption and pollution caused as much ecological damage as would 2,000 million to 3,000 million Indians or Chinese, packed into the peninsula.

Until recently, he said, Italian and European prosperity had been based on the processing of cheap raw materials using low priced energy.

This situation could now no longer continue, and Europe would be in a state of crisis

until the population had been reduced to levels compatible with each country's own resources. The difference between population and resources was at its most stark in Italy.

Signor Forte said that a drastic reduction of the future labour force would not only mean that older people could be allowed to continue to make their contribution, with a reduction in pension payments, but also young persons and women could be involved in production instead of being excluded with grave dangers to social peace and human dignity.

The speakers tonight did not include spokesmen of the Roman Catholic view of life in Italy. They would no doubt have seen the issues in a different light.

Nevertheless there was enough reasoned discussion to make one wonder what has happened to the cult of the bambino and how many hundreds of thousands of emigrants must be turning over in their graves, to express agreement with the need to cut population according to the cloth of immediate resources.

Elysée meeting disrupted by false alarm

Paris, Feb 18.—Workmen disrupted a Cabinet meeting at the Elysée Palace today when they accidentally cut an alarm wire which caused a maximum alert at the palace.

As bells began ringing, guards shut the palace gates, and others, armed with automatic weapons, took up positions on the steps leading up to the building from the central courtyard.

The alert was, however, cancelled within minutes when workmen admitted unintentionally setting off the alarm.—Agence France-Press.

ADVERTISEMENT

WILL YOUR M.P. LET YOU SHOP ON SUNDAYS AND LATE AT NIGHT?

This Friday 20th February your MP will have the opportunity to support the Private Member's Bill presented by Sir Anthony Meyer to amend and extend the law regulating shop opening hours.

At present it is against the law to sell most types of goods after eight at night and on Sundays. In the current Dickie Dirts' Opinion Poll so far over 30,000 people (approximately 94% of the vote taken) are in favour of a change in the law relating to late night and Sunday shopping. In

fact 49% of Dickie Dirts' trade takes place during currently illegal shopping hours.

Provided employees' interests are adequately safeguarded—as outlined in the proposed Bill—a change in the law would give workers the freedom to work hours which they prefer. Dickie Dirts' staff work 37½ hours a week on a rotating shift and are paid £6,740 a year basic salary. The 14 hours a day, seven days a week opening requires twice the number of staff that ordinary shop hours would neces-

sitate, thus providing more employment. Dickie Dirts' value for money policy maintains reduced prices and doubles employment, which makes a nonsense of the uncompetitive statement that longer shopping hours are inflationary. The majority of shops appear to forget that they are in business to provide a service for the customer.

The laws pertaining to shopping hours are out of pace with modern Britain. Today we are a nation of many races and creeds and

most people do not have the time available to do all their shopping conveniently during conventional shopping hours. Dickie Dirts believes the law should be updated to suit Britain's needs.

Dickie Dirts OPINION POLL

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WEST EUROPE

Calvo policy outlined for approval by Cortes

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Feb 18

In a programme proposed to the Spanish Parliament today, Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo appealed to employers and workers alike to "shoulder their responsibilities" in solving unemployment, and promised all citizens that terrorism would be combated under the law.

Speaking against the background of the death last week of a suspected Basque terrorist while undergoing police interrogation, and the resignations offered yesterday by security police chiefs, the Prime Minister-designate indicated that in future law officers responsible to the Ministry of Justice would be present during interrogations.

His one hour investiture speech also included a reasoned appeal to Spaniards to shed any "disenchantment" with the system, pointing out that under a democracy citizens had to collaborate with the Government and could not just sit back and criticize.

On foreign policy, Señor Calvo Sotelo reaffirmed Spain's intention of joining Nato, but without setting any target date. He rejected any claim by the Soviet Union to "arrogate to itself the right to stop us", as he put it.

In a conciliatory gesture he offered all parties in the Cortes that, if elected, he would open talks to find a consensus in favour of the timing and conditions under which Spain would participate in Nato.

He rejected any idea of armed Spanish neutrality, on the ground that the country's strategic and geographic position and its capacity to achieve such a defence effort prevented that course.

On Gibraltar, Señor Calvo Sotelo pledged his government to implement the "gradual and agreed application of the 1971 Gibraltarian Agreement of last April".

Rector killed in Rome accident

Mgr Sean O'Kelly, aged 49, rector of the Scots College in Rome, was killed in a street accident near the college last night.

A college spokesman said that Mgr O'Kelly who was born in Limerick, Ireland, was a respected rector. He took over the post in 1973 after spending eight years as vice-rector.

Chirac challenge to Giscard camp

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 18

One of the genuine innovations of this year's presidential election campaign, which is beginning otherwise to look in many respects like a rather tired rehash of the campaign of 1974, is the appearance on the scene of M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, not in the role of kingmaker as last time, but as a pretender to the throne in his own right.

In his first television appearance of the campaign last night, he claimed to offer the voters a credible alternative to the same old choice between M Giscard d'Estaing and M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader.

He did so with skill and conviction, contrasting the image of a pious Chirac, reasonable, determined, statesmanlike, and at the same time close to people's problems with which he had surprised the politicians and journalists at his press conference a week ago.

Those Gaullist leaders who had concluded a little too hastily from this press conference that the new sober and restrained Jacques Chirac would be content to act as an auxiliary in the name of the outgoing President and to present him with the Gaullist votes on a platter for the second round, were told in no uncertain fashion to think again.

He gave equality short shrift to those Socialists who have been nursing dreams of growing "convergence" with the Gaullist RPR that would help M Mitterrand into power.

"The policy I propose is very precisely the opposite of the Government's", M Chirac said,

Car plunge kills four Scots on Florida holiday

Miami, Feb 18.—Despite repeated rescue efforts by firemen, a Scottish mother and her three children on holiday in Florida died after their car plunged into a canal west of Miami.

Her husband and the children's father, Mr Alan Atkinson, of Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, survived the night accident, police said. He was not seriously injured but was admitted to hospital suffering from shock.

Mrs Adrienne Atkinson and her two daughters, Lucy and Anna, aged eight, died in the car. Her son Nigel, who was 11, died later in hospital after initially being revived at the scene of the accident.

Highway patrolmen said the family's car was in collision with another vehicle before it plunged into the canal.

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Farm price increases ranging above 6pc mooted for the EEC

Brussels, Feb 18.—The European Commission today agreed a new farm "package" which will give the Community's 8.8 million farmers price increases ranging from 6 to 12 per cent, according to EEC sources here.

The 1981-82 agricultural price agreement, proposed by Mr Poul Dalsager, the Farm Commissioner, and little changed by the Commission, includes wide-ranging measures to reduce mounting food surpluses.

The measures form the basis of the Commission's drive to reduce the size of farm spending in the EEC's overall budget, the sources said.

The cost of the price increases is put at about £412m in a full year, but the constraint measures and other agricultural revenues, should reduce the net cost to about £230m.

The proposals will form the basis of what promises to be prolonged wrangling between EEC farm ministers before a final agreement is reached on the package, the sources added.

The Commission is said to have accepted a proposal for an extra levy on excess milk production, one of the costliest items in the EEC budget.

For cereals it has proposed higher increases for target prices—on which taxes on imported cereals are based—than for intervention prices paid on surplus EEC production.

It would help farmers by raising prices for imported cereals but reduced price support for their own production.

The proposed increases, if approved by the ten agriculture ministers, are sure to anger the farmers who wanted rises of at least 15 per cent.

France has proposed a 10 per cent average price increase, while West Germany was demanding an 8 per cent boost, and Britain one of 6 per cent.

The proposals, along with the measures to make producers bear part of the cost of surpluses, will be presented for approval by the ministers at their next meeting, scheduled for February 23 and 24.

The commission has proposed a 6 per cent increase in the price of grains, except for hard wheat, which would rise by 4.1 per cent, rye, by 3.8 per cent and soft wheat, of minimal quality, which would go up by 4 per cent.

The target price for milk would jump by 6 per cent on April 1, and another 3 per cent on December 1, 1981.

Other proposed increases include beef, up by 6 per cent, from April 4, and another 3 per cent on December 1, 1981.

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OVERSEAS

President sets out to sell his package

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Feb 18

President Reagan's message to Congress and his speech to the nation this evening, mark the official opening of his campaign to "turn the country around".

His ministers have put into place the proposals and the theoretical underpinnings of the "supply side economics" that Mr Reagan conceives that he was elected to impose upon the country, and he will himself endeavour to sell it to Congress and public.

The doctrine is that if investment and productivity can be induced to rise, then everything else will follow.

The way to get productivity and investment levels to rise sharply is to cut personal tax rates, to reduce the share of the gross national product taken and spent by the Government, to reduce the Government's interference in business, and to maintain a tough monetary policy.

Mr Reagan set out the problem in a broadcast two weeks ago. Today he is spelling out the cure. The broadcast was very well received and the President's popularity is now at its zenith. He intends to call on this popularity immediately, to tell the country that there are unpleasant sacrifices to make and to persuade them that the period of travail will be brief.

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Mr Jean Chrétien, the Justice Minister, is applauded by Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, and others after his speech in Parliament to support "patriation, at long last, of the Canadian constitution".

Last-minute agreement removes threat of Polish students strike

From Debra Trevisan
Warsaw, Feb 18

The threat of a nationwide student strike was removed after an agreement was signed between the students of Lodz University and Mr Janusz Gorsk, the Polish Minister of Education.

The students of Lodz University who started the action five weeks ago, presented the authorities with more than 50 demands some of which went beyond academic life and took on a political character.

They demanded the replacement of compulsory teaching of the Russian language by a voluntary choice of languages. They also protested against compulsory Marxist lectures especially against the way Marxism was taught and outlined the freedom to choose from a variety of social sciences.

Another demand concerned the history books, especially those relating to Polish history which the students said presented a slanted view especially of recent historical events.

In short, the authorities have accepted the demand for more objective education and the removal of ideological slants.

Censorship is to be ended and the students will be able to circulate publications within the colleges of up to 1,000 copies without having to submit to the censorship.

The students' demand for a reduction by half of the period of compulsory military service, which is two years in the armed forces and three in the navy, was rejected.

Yesterday, students in some 20 universities and higher education centres threatened to call a nationwide strike in support of their demands. But, the Government moved quickly and after meeting Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, a deputy prime minister last night, the students agreed to continue negotiations.

The agreement ends the last social upheaval in Poland since the beginning of the year. Negotiations there are going on behind closed doors and away from the usual loud-speakers relaying procedures.

An agreement is expected soon. This would give the Government the necessary time for the most urgent work of putting the economy back on its feet.

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OVERSEAS

Christian martyrs beatified by the Pope before he pays visit to worst slums in Manila

From Peter Hazelhurst
Manila, Feb 18

Three million Filipinos watched the Pope beatify 16 Christian martyrs in the centre of Manila today, raising their stature of holiness to one step before sainthood. It was the first ceremony of its kind to be held by the Catholic Church outside Europe since the thirteenth century.

Reinforcing the Vatican's interest in Asia, the Pope announced tonight that as a native of Poland he would like to visit Peking to meet the Chinese Catholic community.

Making his plea he said to Chinese residents in Manila: "Ever since God's providence a mysterious ways called me from my native Poland to the see of St Peter in Rome, I have ardently desired to express my affection and esteem to all brothers and sisters of the Church in China."

He went on, apparently to a measure of support to the regime in Peking, by declaring that a "good Chinese Catholic works loyally for the progress of the nation, observes his obligations of filial piety towards his parents, family and country. There is therefore no opposition or incompatibility in being at the same time truly Christian and authentically Chinese."

Describing China as a great country in terms of culture, history, its geographic extension and population, the Pope then turned to the Scriptures: "I am longing to see you to strengthen you."

At the beatification ceremony this afternoon, hundreds of white doves were set flying and the bells of Manila Cathedral and churches across the city began to peal as the Pope, in one of Asia's most historic and spiritual ceremonies, unveiled a cenotaph bearing the inscription "For God I shall give my life" to commemorate the martyrdom of 16 priests and laymen who were tortured to death by the Japanese in the seventeenth century.

Lorenzo Ruiz, one of the leading Christian martyrs in Asia, a Filipino layman who left the Philippines to escape criminal charges at home, was eventually executed in Nagasaki in 1637 for attempting to spread the Catholic faith in Japan.

Conducting the services in English, Spanish and Latin before the vast crowd in Luneta



The Pope, with chalice, at the beatification ceremony.

park in the centre of Manila, the Pope announced to the Asian Church: "In this first beatification ceremony to take place outside of Rome and in this first Philippine Beatification, Lorenzo Ruiz, you have cause for continued rejoicing."

Attended by 300 cardinals and bishops from the Philippines and other parts of Asia, including Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and India, the moving ceremony was described by leading Catholics tonight as "one of the most significant events in the history of the Christian faith in Asia."

The Pope announced that the 16 martyrs declared as "blessed" today, include nine Japanese Christians, four Spaniards, one Frenchman, an Italian, and Lorenzo Ruiz.

According to the church's record, Lorenzo Ruiz and four companions were executed "painfully and slowly" in September, 1637, after they refused to renounce their faith.

Hung by his feet from the gallows, his body and head were lowered into a narrow pit. The entrance of the pit was closed with pieces of wood and stones to increase the pressure. Lorenzo was left hanging upside down to bleed and suffocate until he died three days later.

They are given the title blessed because this was the greatest act of love for God, the Pope said.

Earlier, he inspected the edge of Manila's worst slum in the district of Tondo. The sprawling slum of shanty houses lacks running water, sewerage or proper medical facilities. The smell was almost unbearable

Playing at police and soldiers in limboland

From Robert Fisk
Kunaira, Syria, Feb 18

Kunaira must be one of the most lawless towns in the world. There are two policemen for every shepherd and down at the local gendarmerie, Kalashnikovs are the order of the day. It is strange because the total civilian population is only 18.

A Syrian army second lieutenant, an English literature graduate from the University of Aleppo, summed it all up rather well today as he stood on the Syrian ceasefire line—a rain-swept bank of dark mud—only 50 yards from where the Israeli flag cracked in the rainy afternoon.

"There are many shepherds around" he said. "We are very worried that they might walk through the minefields. So every shepherd has two policemen to look after him. The young soldier allowed himself a slight smile."

Just up the narrow, puddled road, and beyond the white painted United Nations huts, a soldier stepped from behind a metal barricade to inspect the credentials of a driver. The Syrian lieutenant watched him without interest.

"We don't talk to the Israelis," he said. "Why should we? Sometimes in our forward observation posts we can hear them talking and they shout 'Syria is very bad' and they say obscene things about us. We shout the same things back to them."

Thus the Middle East's most ferocious enemies confront one another beneath the Golan Heights amid the ruins of a war that ended more than seven years ago. Every building in Kunaira—once a town of 60,000 people—was systematically destroyed by Israeli tanks before the Syrian withdrawal after the 1973 war and Syrian soldiers now occupy this desolate salient, evading the United Nations' ceasefire troop restrictions by pretending in a drill sort of way, to be police.

Khalid died majors with automatic rifles ride estate wagons through the ghostly streets and plod mournfully through the rain down to the little shacks where Kunaira's would-be constabulary keeps the peace.

It is a sort of flattened concrete bricks and mud street after street of pancaked houses and rubble walls, fire scorched mosques and a devastated Christian church.

Perhaps it is incumbent on every nation to keep a ruin or two as a reminder of the past. The Egyptians' last Port Said, the Israeli's mainline wreckage of the 1948 war, Syria has Kunaira.

It is almost surrounded by Israeli occupied territory and high above it on the hill of Abu Nedar, the Israeli's can monitor the Syrian army's slightest movement. Two swaths of barbed wire separate the two armies and between them sit 14 bored Australian soldiers of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

Ceasefire violations—real or imagined—are regularly reported to the United Nations by both sides. The Syrians are currently claiming that Israeli patrols outside Kunaira "are firing searchlights on to the Syrian military post."

From behind Tell Abu Nedar came the thunder of heavy artillery.

The Israelis were practicing firing on the far side of the hill but the wooden and tin walls of the Neumann's make-believe gendarmerie rattled with the blast.

You could hear the shells hissing down range and the two long explosions that followed reverberated through the shack. While the Syrians were playing possum on one side of Tell Abu Nedar, the Israelis were clearly playing soldiers on the other.

The West Bank-3: Palestinians fear they will be expelled by Israelis

Politics and history motivate Jewish settlers

From Christopher Walker
Eilon Moreh, Feb 18

Mrs Linda Hazony is an articulate American Jew who was born and brought up in Brooklyn. Today, with her husband and five children, she lives here in a cramped, mobile home perched on an exposed hill top overlooking Nablus, the largest and most militantly Palestinian town in the occupied West Bank.

Like thousands of other Jewish settlers in similarly inhospitable, incongruous locations, Mrs Hazony has no doubts about the justification for her presence in former Arab territory. "This is Eretz Israel, a land promised to the Jews by Abraham," she explained. "We are not foreigners here."

Eilon Moreh symbolizes the new type of settlement which has been assiduously fostered, financed and constructed by the ruling Likud coalition, especially by Mr Ariel Sharon, its energetic and expansionist Agriculture Minister. Already forcibly moved from a site near the Israeli flag cracked in the rainy afternoon, it is now situated less than three miles from a town with an Arab population of 60,000 and is guarded round the clock from possible Palestinian attack.

Although the Eilon Moreh settlers live in an unprepossessing assortment of pre-fabs, squads of labourers (including local Arabs) are now hard at work completing the first 35 houses. The aim is to have them built by the date of the general election in the summer in order to make it difficult for any incoming Labour government to dismantle the settlement.

Supporters of the extreme Jewish nationalist group Gush Emunim, the residents of Eilon Moreh are heavily armed and motivated by a passionate conviction that they have a greater right to sovereignty than the native Arabs. Although dismissed as dangerous fanatics by moderate Israelis, they are seen by many others (including some Government ministers) as the natural successors to the Jewish pioneers who first paved the way for the creation of the state.

Behind the biblical mysticism favoured by the new settlers, there is a hard-headed awareness of the crucial historical role played by settlements both in forcing the United Nations to partition Palestine and in delineating the original demographic lines between the Jewish and Arab populations. Many observers are convinced that underlying the settlement programme is a long-term aim to annex the West Bank permanently.

In conversation with outsiders, the new settlers appear totally unconcerned about the dangerous tensions which their presence has aroused among the Arab population. Many local Palestinian leaders are now convinced that the ultimate Israeli goal is to drive them out of the West Bank completely. Only a minority of the settlers advocate this policy openly, but most would agree with Mrs Rachel Klein,



power in 1977, the number of Jewish settlements (including Jewish suburbs built in East Jerusalem) totalled 37, with most concentrated around strategic sections of the Jordan Valley. In the past three and a half years, the number has jumped to 75, and plans are well advanced for another ten to be established before polling day.

Altogether about 18,000 Jews live in the occupied area, less than three per cent of the Arab population. In addition to houses and schools, they have also received the expensive beginnings of an industrial infrastructure intended to guarantee the viability of a permanent Jewish presence. Official statistics show that since 1977, over 72,000 square feet of industrial plant and other commercial buildings have been erected in the West Bank, with another 16,000 square feet under construction.

The question beginning to dominate Israeli politics is the extent to which this vast network of what the settlers pointedly refer to as "created facts" could be dismantled or otherwise neutralized by a future Labour government pledged to negotiate territorial compromise with neighbouring Jordan.

In a recent series of private policy-making forums held by the Labour leadership, there were a number of references to the possibility of what one participant described as "civil war" breaking out if the Army was instructed to pull down settlements like Eilon Moreh, which are not seen as performing any useful security role.

Mr Sharon has deliberately gone on record predicting that no Israeli government could survive in office if it attempted to do away with the settlements. A new pressure group formed by representatives of 40 settlements, which met for the first time on Christmas Eve, gave clear warning of its determination to resist. A resolution passed by the Labour majority stated: "The Council considers any proposal intended to hand over parts of Eretz Israel to foreign sovereignty as a disavowal of the Jewish people's destiny and the aims of the Zionist enterprise, and as an illegal act."

The first two parts of this five-part series appeared yesterday and on Tuesday.

Blacks living in white areas face prosecution

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Feb 18

Four special courts are to be set up in Johannesburg next month to handle prosecutions of Indians, Coloureds and blacks who have been living illegally in white areas. A magistrate has been recalled to retirement to help handle the 500 cases over a four-month period.

The prosecutions will be brought under the Group Areas Act, the apartheid statute that divides down people of different colours may live and work.

Several white people are also charged with allowing "squatted persons" to occupy premises under their roof. The Johannesburg Star reported today that any blacks, particularly off Indians and Coloureds, have been moving from white areas of the city because of the shortage of good-class accommodation in their own legally-designated suburbs.

Many of them are prepared to double rent to secure a home and there has been no shortage of takers among white owners for the extra money. Prosecutions under the Group Areas Act—considered by many to be one of the most inhumane laws in the country—were back pending the outcome of a test case before the late division of the Supreme Court.

The appeals were dismissed and Mr P. Cronje, deputy Minister of Community Development, said he is powerless to stop further prosecutions under the Act.

Mr Cassim Saljee, chairman of an organization called Actstop, formed to help people facing eviction, said today that it had warned the minister that "group areas" evictions would result in hundreds of people being rendered homeless and that law-abiding people in desperate need of homes would face the prospect of becoming criminals.

The Star reported today that prosecutions will begin in the Johannesburg magistrates' court on March 2. Four magistrates, including one who has retired, have been detailed to preside at the hearings which have been set down in each of four courts from Mondays to Thursdays over a four-month period.

In a further move, seen in opposition quarters as a retrograde step in the Government's proclaimed programme to remove racial discrimination, three unions affiliated to the non-racial Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu) have been given government permission to officially register but only on a racial basis.

Last year the Government pledged that unions would be able to register for entry into the official bargaining system on a non-racial basis.

Secret role of envoy to Britons

Continued from page 1

Bishop Hassan Dehghanizadeh, the mission chief, escaped an assassination attempt. His son was later murdered in Tehran and Miss Waddell, the bishop's secretary, was wounded in a gun attack.

On the surface a picture has been painted of a vendetta by Islamic fanatics angry at the conversion of Muslim Iranians to Christianity by the church, but informed sources said that underneath the surface lay "friction and strange rivalries" between British staff and Iranian working in the mission, which could well be related to the confession that was announced today.

What was also not explained today, in the light of the Ayatollah's optimism over the imminent release of the Britons, was why Mr Terry Waite, a special representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, had been asked to extend his stay in Iran beyond Friday.

Mr Waite, who arrived in Iran secretly earlier this month and has since visited the three Anglicans in prison, has refused to conflict with journalists, leaving everyone guessing as to his exact role. It is known, however, that he has had a series of meetings with Iranian officials.

Sources close to Swedish and British diplomats involved with the issue, continue to insist that Mr Waite is operating entirely separate of their efforts.

The sources added that Ayatollah Beheshti's statement had not been officially conveyed to the Swedish Embassy in Tehran which handles British affairs in Iran. Despite the renewed optimism following today's press conference, the British concern are still very cautious on the issue of the Britons' release.

Kaunda officials ousted in party reshuffle

Lusaka, Feb 18.—President

Kaunda of Zambia today replaced the number two and three men in the state hierarchy in his second shake-up of the ruling party and government in just over two months.

He told a news conference that the changes were intended to streamline the Government and the United National Independence Party (U.N.I.P.), the country's only political party.

The post of Unip secretary-general, in effect, deputy head of state, went to Mr Humphrey Mulemba, chairman of the central committee's important appointments and disciplinary subcommittee.

He replaces Mr Mainza Chona, aged 51, a former vice-president before the title was abolished, and a former Prime Minister, as well as a long-time political ally of Dr Kaunda.

Mr Chona, who was party secretary-general for four years, will become Ambassador to the United States.

The new Prime Minister, who ranks as number three in the state hierarchy, is Mr Nalundino Munda, chairman of the Unip sports subcommittee. He is a former minister with experience in labour relations, commerce, industry and local government.

He replaces Mr Daniel Lusilo, a Lusaka lawyer, who kept the seat in the central committee which goes with the premiership by moving to the lesser job of chairman of the social and cultural subcommittee.

Mr Lusilo, who in recent months has had a rough time in the party, but has been outspoken in the National Assembly, has hinted that he would like to be relieved of the top Cabinet job.

Dr Kaunda last reshuffled the Cabinet and central committee on December 4, labour unrest broke out in the copper mines after Unip disciplinary action against 17 trade unionists accused of meddling in politics.

Hijack plot man freed by Moscow

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Feb 18

Josef Mendelevech, aged 34, the last of the nine Jews jailed in 1970 for plotting to escape from the Soviet Union in a hijacked aircraft, arrived in Israel this evening.

He was taken from prison to Moscow airport and flown to Vienna this morning, six days after newspapers carried reports of his disappearance.

Nothing had been heard about Mr Mendelevech since October when he went on a hunger strike and the warden of the camp in the Urals where he was detained was reported to have told a Moscow Jewish couple on Thursday that he was no longer in the camp and he knew nothing of his whereabouts.

Israelis had feared the worst and on Sunday the Government decided to mobilize foreign governments and international organizations on his behalf.

His release was announced in Parliament today by Mr Moshe Nissim, the Minister of Justice, who interrupted the proceedings for an important announcement.

War hero disbands his party

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Feb 18

The period of attempted reform in Israeli politics came to a close today when Professor Yigael Yadin, the Deputy Prime Minister, formally proposed the disbanding of his small and demoralized Democratic Movement to a meeting of the party's executive.

The demise of the party marks the final collapse in the expectations aroused during the 1977 general election when Professor Yadin's original Democratic Movement for Change captured the imagination of thousands of voters disillusioned with Israel's traditional parties. It captured 15 of the Knesset's 120 seats.

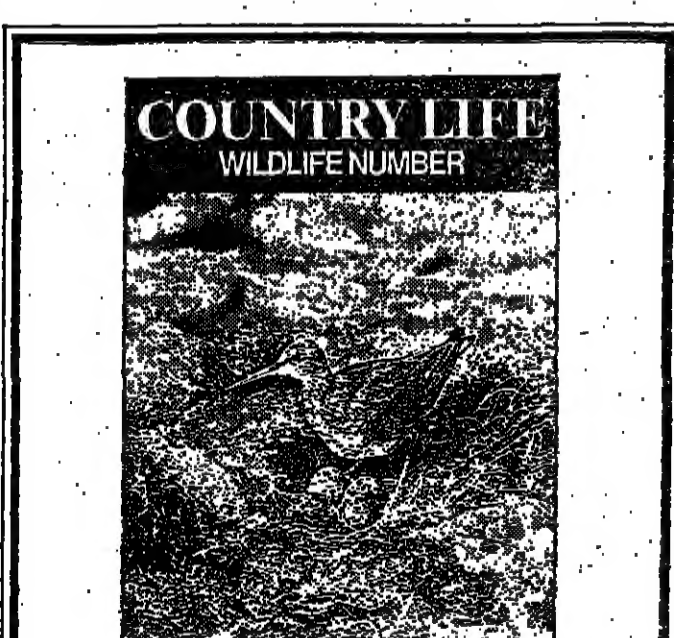
After joining Mr Menachem Begin's rising coalition in October 1977, the group was weakened by a series of bitter internal squabbles and the three Democratic Movement deputies are now all that remain of the four-year-old grouping.

Professor Yadin, a hero of the war of independence and the Israeli army's second chief of staff, left a successful academic career as an internationally-recognized archaeologist to enter politics shortly before the 1977 elections.

Among other radical policies his party was dedicated to fight for reform of the Israeli electoral system and introduce constituency representation.

The appeal of the idealistic movement to leftwing voters was seen as an important factor in causing the Israeli Labour Party to suffer its first electoral defeat. The final collapse of the Democratic Movement today was recognition that almost all its original support had gone.

Many of Professor Yadin's early backers have been bitterly disillusioned by his refusal to withdraw from the ruling coalition in protest against its hawkish policies.



COUNTRY LIFE

WILDLIFE NUMBER

Wildlife Number

WHERE THE LION ROARS

David Tomlinson writes about the mammals of northern Botswana, where elephants can still be seen in large herds and the roaring of lions is heard nightly.

SEARCH FOR THE ELUSIVE GREENSHANK

Dennis Green describes a successful Hebridean search for nests of the greenshank, perhaps the most elusive of wading birds.

BRITAIN'S ENDANGERED BOGS

David Goode looks at the wildlife of this country's mosses—the quaking bog—and argues for the preservation of these valuable habitats.

RETURN OF THE PINE MARTEN

John Davies discusses the re-introduction of pine martens—a member of the weasel family once near extinction in Britain—into the forests of Galloway.

BUTTERFLIES BEFORE THE LENS

Tom Jenkyn offers some tips for the successful photographing of butterflies in the wild.

COUNTRY LIFE

On sale now

Zimbabwe seeks £780m aid to revive economy

Nicholas Ashford
Lusaka, Feb 18

Zimbabwe Government announced today that it had secured a £780m loan from the International Development Bank to help revive the economy. The loan is to be used for a wide range of projects, including the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure and the development of its natural resources.

The loan is the largest ever received by Zimbabwe and is a significant step towards the country's economic recovery. The government has expressed its confidence that the loan will enable it to implement its development plans and improve the living standards of its people.

The loan is to be repaid over a period of 20 years, with a grace period of five years. The interest rate is 10 per cent per annum. The loan is to be used for a wide range of projects, including the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure and the development of its natural resources.

The government has expressed its confidence that the loan will enable it to implement its development plans and improve the living standards of its people.

Zimbabwe has so far attracted, believes that the level of international assistance will determine whether the country can be transformed into a stable, non-racial state.

As Mr Bernard Chidzero, the Minister of Economic Planning, said when announcing the conference, what is at stake are the very issues of harmonious development in the evolution of a non-racial society which go beyond the immediate borders of Zimbabwe.

The country is emerging from a bitter war which, during its seven-year duration, left more than 25,000 dead, countless more wounded and caused an incalculable amount of damage to the infrastructure.

But it is also having to transform an economy which had become distorted by almost a century of colonial rule, benefiting a small minority of the population but leaving the majority to exist in rural poverty.

The aim of the three-year plan is to channel funds into five main areas:

These are for a programme of land settlement and rural development; repair and reconstruction of war damage; resettlement of refugees and displaced persons; rehabilitation of former Zania and Zipra guerrillas; and technical cooperation.

By far the most important part of the plan is land settlement, which will absorb two-thirds of the £780m.

At present about 6,000 white farmers occupy roughly 40 per cent of the land area.

Since independence, about 15,000 families have been resettled on nearly a million acres of land already bought and an additional 17 million acres of land are on offer for purchase by the Government.

Meteor blamed for flash attributed to nuclear blast

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Feb 18

American intelligence experts have concluded that a flash of light spotted over the southern Atlantic last December was a natural phenomenon and not the explosion of a nuclear device.

A State Department spokesman said that one possible explanation for the incident was a meteor entering the Earth's atmosphere in the area. Whatever its cause, Government experts had determined "from all available data that the event was natural, not man-made," he added.

The spokesman was responding to a report today in the Johannesburg Star claiming that the flash was caused by a nuclear explosion, probably set off by the South African Government.

INCURABLE?—Yes.

UNHAPPY?—No.

The British Home and Hospital for incurables specialises in looking after men and women suffering from progressive paralytic diseases. They need very special care and attention. Some are helpless, bedridden. Others, unfortunates have to be nursed, amused, cared for with compassion, courtesy and patience. The BHHH receives no State aid.

We must rely upon your generosity for a very worthy cause in this special year for the disabled.

More than a hospital much more than a Home

BHHH

The British Home & Hospital for Incurables

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PATRON: HM QUEEN ELIZABETH, THE QUEEN MOTHER.

OVERSEAS

World View

by Arrigo Levi

Kremlin poised for historic decisions

Reports from Moscow tell us that the Kremlin is not only worried about President Reagan's policies. But is also unhappy about European attitudes. The Soviet Union does not see any great differences between the two, despite Europe's greater readiness to "keep the dialogue alive".

In a few days, the Communist Party Congress will meet to celebrate the great achievements of communism under President Brezhnev. The congress is not likely to discuss Soviet failures and policy alternatives; but there will be private meetings, some of them attended by all the East European leaders, where such matters will have to be dealt with. Historic decisions may be taken.

The lack of any clear conflict of opinion between the new Reagan Administration and the Europeans (America's declaration of support for France's disarmament plan in Madrid being the latest gesture of good will across the Atlantic), provides a picture which is uncomfortably crowded with crises that demand fatal choices.

Of course, Mr Brezhnev can also claim some extremely substantial successes. The Reagan Administration, once in power, has confirmed that only a very costly effort will permit it to redress the global strategic balance, while theatre balances in the two key areas, Europe and the Middle East, are also clearly favourable, at least on paper, to the Soviet side—especially in the Gulf.

Wider range of global options

This new military balance has allowed and will allow the Soviet leaders a much wider range of global options, to the point of threatening Western control, or even access to vital resources such as Middle Eastern oil and African strategic raw materials.

Mr Brezhnev can also claim to have restored the spread of Eurocommunism. He has regained the full support of the French, he has split the Spaniards and has contributed to forcing upon the Italians a hardening of their domestic policies, to the point of weakening Italy's economic and political stability. The absence of the leaders of these three parties from the Moscow celebrations will be only a nuisance.

Mr Brezhnev's crowning achievement remains the apparently unblemished unity and compactness of the Soviet leadership.

Of course, under Soviet conditions there can always be surprises. But the usual indirect signs which allow Kremlinologists to make reasonable guesses

about the reality of Soviet politics have provided no indication, for a considerable period of time, of any fundamental disagreements at the top.

While 40 per cent of the local leadership may now have been replaced, the new names in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union are likely to be only about 10 per cent, and there are no relevant changes expected in the Politburo.

The compactness of the Soviet leadership under Mr Brezhnev has allowed it to maintain control over most of East Europe, even when faced by the historic challenge from Poland; but events in Poland are just at the head of a long list of negative developments and downright failures.

Inability to adopt economic reforms

This should include China's realignment with the West and the critical attitudes of the non-aligned nations towards the Soviet Union over Kampuchea and Afghanistan, as well as many domestic failures, from economic underdevelopment to the total inability to adopt significant political or economic reforms. The Polish drama is where all these crises meet. Here, their many weaknesses leave the Soviet leaders with limited options.

While the Soviet military positions in Europe are momentarily seriously weakened by the existence of a huge Polish "hostile territory" between the home bases and the front-line positions, the Kremlin has been less than forthcoming in its attempts to tolerate a structural weakening of its totalitarian system (and strategic positions), or to impose by force a radical repression of Polish counter-revolutionaries, by either indirect, or direct intervention.

While indirect repression seems doubtful, the Soviet leaders are still hesitating, despite all their bluffing and puffing, before plunging into what may well become a Polish war. In any case, whatever the end of the Polish crisis, the end of the Brezhnev era, the end of the contradictions and failures of the Brezhnev era.

Beyond it, there will have to be new domestic and international policies, perhaps leading to a different Soviet Union: either to an ever more totalitarian and aggressive state, or to a new system, ready to accept compromises, cooperation and changes.

There are no hard facts which tell us with any certainty which it will be; but it is possible that decisive choices will be made in Moscow during the twenty-sixth congress, though certainly not by the delegates.

Of course, under Soviet conditions there can always be surprises. But the usual indirect signs which allow Kremlinologists to make reasonable guesses

THE ARTS

The sacramental approach to Strauss opera



Deflo: "We must make theatre out of opera"

"A child of sorrow", Strauss called it, that last great romantic opera for which he and Hugo von Hofmannsthal had travelled for six years, which had driven Hofmannsthal to "profound despair" and Strauss to the point where he no longer felt he knew what was bad. Yet, in later life, Strauss thought *Die Frau ohne Schatten* his greatest opera.

With its eclectic source material, its complex philosophical and musical, dramatic structure, its vast singing and acting roles, its equally immense orchestral requirements and its playing time of about four hours, it is no wonder that its passage through operatic history has been as fraught and hailing as the labour that gave it birth. Only in the forties did it begin to gain a foothold in Europe; and it was not until the Sixties that *Die Frau* was first heard in Britain, France and America.

Any new production of *Die Frau* makes operatic history: when the Welsh National Opera's opens in Cardiff on Saturday it will not only be the first performance in Britain outside London but the first performance of the work in English in a new translation by Eric Crozier.

For the young Belgian director Gilbert Deflo, his British debut looks set to put, in through as many trials as the opera's characters have to face. But he is in many ways particularly well prepared. After studying for four years at the Hoger Instituut voor Toneel en Cultuurschepping in Brussels, he worked with Giorgio Strehler "for me the greatest living opera director" at the Piccolo Teatro, Milan, and was soon offered an assistant directorship at the Theatre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels where he worked with Maurice Béjart. After Gérard Morice's death, he was asked to do *Love of Three Oranges* in Frankfurt, offers of contracts flowed in from all over Germany.

Brian MacMaster, WNO's administrator, had seen his *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Karlsruhe and his *Pelléas et Mélisande* at Hamburg, and was deeply impressed by the "extraordinary intensity of performance" he drew out of his singers. Deflo, in turn, liked what he had seen of the youthfulness and accessibility of WNO's work.

The fact that the opera will be in English, that there is a limited budget, that the production has to travel to London, Oxford, Coventry, Bristol and Southampton, are elements that seem particularly apt and stimulating to Deflo's meticulously thought out and passionately felt vocational approach to the declassification of opera.

"*Die Frau* has always been too decorative. The curtain goes up and you have to look for the people. I believe in the 'naked space and true actors' theory of Jacques Copeau: the space around the actor should not kill him; it should help him. Take the beginning of *Die Frau*. The only really necessary thing is that there should be a space floating above the earth. So we made a very flat, hanging, monolithic stone which opens to show the world under it. Why construct a

palace if you can have a strange, mysterious stone? It's like Stonehenge: you don't know where it came from, where it goes. Taking his lead from Hofmannsthal but his inspiration from sixteenth-century Japanese theatre, Deflo has pre-empted the need for elaborate mechanical stagecraft by working the miracles through the agency of black-clad Kabuki people who act as servants of the Nurse and of the drama. "We can travel with them, after all, like a circus!"

Cus occur where Deflo feels there is too much merely ornamental development of language and music, like the obvious one of the Empress's spoken words in Act III: "Hofmannsthal and Strauss were sometimes too literary; they didn't have faith in what the body can do. And a lot of music was written to make set changes, so I am working with open set changes, so there

is just too much music, which Strauss would certainly have cut if he's seen my production."

Deflo's specific choice of a particularly compelling blue for one of the sets, a symbol for him of the magic world in contrast to Barak's earth world, reveals a good deal about his understanding of the opera, one influenced by his assimilation of a wide range of literature, art and music, but particularly, it seems, the works of Rudolf Steiner.

"It is, first of all, an argument for the fact that life should go on. But only with love and the Empress wants the symbol of giving birth in life, but not only in herself, but as Steiner would have it, in a cosmic dimension. You don't even hurt fishes and flowers." Deflo's sacramental view of the opera is very much at odds with Hofmannsthal's own note on interpretation: "Everything," he wrote, "is

body and beautiful—every second. Kiss your eyes and bless them and then let them drink in everything—the upper world, the lower world, and the wonderful middle regions."

Deflo has a particular interest in the character of the Nurse. "I make her act as if she has been the wife of Kaikobad, pushed out. She is the female against the male, protecting the Empress as if she were his daughter. I develop this very strongly: she loves her as a daughter, but also as a woman; it's almost a lesbian relationship. The Empress, too, revolts against her father but, whereas in her case the young girl grows into a free woman, at her words, 'I revive like a Phoenix' the Nurse acts out the opposite, falling back into a former position, completely demolished as she feels she is losing her."

Deflo claims it is Strauss's music, above all, that has directed his direction. He has listened to "everything" he wrote, analyzed the score in detail, has little sympathy for the director who does not work with the score under his armpits who arrives ten days before the production opens. As vehement and enthusiastic in conversation as he is intensely energetic in the theatre, whipping his singers into action in rehearsal, Deflo's frustration with what he feels is wrong in opera ("and the higher you go the worse it gets") runs like a ground bass under all his observations.

There are so much chattering in our job, believe me. A lot of things are going wrong. We must have a greater lyrical dimension in acting. And we must make theatre out of opera.

From September he will be engaged for six years as first house director at the Theatre Royal de la Monnaie, working on *Don Carlos*, *Cendrillon* (with von Stade), *Pelléas et Mélisande* (with Pritchard), *Tales of Hoffmann* and *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. The confident optimism that made him feel, with Brecht, when he started his studies, that as a director he could change the world, has not entirely faded.

"I know now that it is not possible. But go on. Opera has to go on, and it has to be better than the laughs at his hubris," and at Brussels for the first time in my life I shall be able to work in depth. I have every possibility."

Hilary Finch

ECO/Polini Festival Hall/Radio 3

Joan Chissell

The day is fast approaching when there will be no pianists left willing to share a Mozart concerto with a conductor. Latest in a succession of distinguished younger soloists prepared to take on the English Chamber Orchestra, single-handed is Maurizio Pollini, who, after a brief tour with the orchestra in Germany and Holland, introduced himself to London on Tuesday in the new role of pianist-conductor at a sold-out concert attended by the Prince of Wales.

His two chosen concertos came from the great twelve of 1784-6, and were linked further by both having been written for Barbara Pleyel, one of Mozart's

favourite pupils (who even turned the Andante's Elysian calm, though always Mr Pollini distilled stress into the purest beauty. All three movements brought the deftest exchanges between piano and orchestra).

The concertos were separated by the G major symphony, K338, the last written by the young Mozart for his tyrannical Salzburg archbishop. Though on the rostrum, Mr Pollini again directed with batonless hands, choosing judicious tempo and establishing buoyant, clear-cut rhythm with the minimum of gesture. Although the reading suggested thorough rehearsal rather than immediacy of new discovery, the fluid phrasing of the Andante, the contrast of robust Minuet and flowing woodwind trio, and the vivacity of the finale, the viewpoint, were present both weeks to acknowledge the standing ovations.

Bernstein's way with Copland has changed in recent years. He now sees the slower passages with a rather Germanic "insightful" feeling, inappropriate, in his view, to Copland's French-derived music and stretched to the limits of legato expressiveness. The three-familiar *Appalachian Spring* suite thus became, under that treatment, something rather different from the original, the viewpoint rendered more effective when combined with the talents of three of the Philharmonic's superior soloists: clarinetist Stanley Drucker, for the lovely 1950 clarinet concerto, or composer Philip Spector and English hornist Thomas Stacy for the suite, derived from *Quiet City*.

The quicker passages of cross-rhythms, and syncopations, so central a part of Copland's music-making, were taken at the customary speed. The Philharmonic players, however, have got out of the habit of playing with instant rhythmic verve; under their current music director, and it is almost a miracle, they were taken at the customary speed. The Philharmonic players, however, have got out of the habit of playing with instant rhythmic verve; under their current music director, and it is almost a miracle, they were taken at the customary speed. The Philharmonic players, however, have got out of the habit of playing with instant rhythmic verve; under their current music director, and it is almost a miracle, they were taken at the customary speed.

Songmakers' Almanack Wigmore Hall

Paul Griffiths

The Songmakers' Almanack has done it again, discovered a strong theme for a documentary song recital that is at once moving, entertaining and instructive. Their new programme "Madame von Meck and her Composers" is concerned largely with her one particular composer, Tchaikovsky, and with the story of their passionate friendship by correspondence, neither wanting to meet the other lest reality spoil the exchange of noble admiration and warm regard.

Since their relationship was by letter only, there is abundant material for a telling of the tale. And since so many of Tchaikovsky's songs feed on the household emotions he and his patron encouraged in each other, there is no problem in finding musical illustrations, nor, I think, any impropriety in making the music fit the story.

Indeed, the narrative line, eloquently presented by Graham Johnson from the piano stool, provided a gripping context for 17 Tchaikovsky songs that might otherwise have been rather an embarrassment. It also seemed to help the singers that they were giving their performances, as it were, in character: Richard Jackson as the composer, and Felicity Palmer as the severe but intense widow, dignified in her bearing yet

capable of vehement displays of feeling. Both singers must surely have matched their models too in their adroitness in the language.

The privately indulged ecstasies and miseries of Tchaikovsky and Madame von Meck needed a more frolicsome interlude as respite, and happily his story provided the cue for that. The young lady's patronage also of the telegenic Debussy. A group of his early songs were given fresh and lively charm by Julian Pike and Lynda Russell taking on roles as Debussy and the Meck daughter of whom he was enamoured. But it was only an interlude. The young Frenchman went back to Paris, and then death within three months of each other, both burdened with guilt.

of the letter that the other might have written. As their monologues circle in, getting shorter until they have the shape of a church response, the characters grow further apart with the mother's pressing hate for the son and the son's gleefully announcing his homecoming.

There is a dead father to be considered if need be, he is dead—and Mr Kitchen has other family voices to provide, taking on the task of speaking for the household where he lives. Both actors speak with a private comprehension that holds their words together and Mr Kitchen provides a colourful picture of the other, unseen, family members. They speak as if they have found a truth in the text, but the closer they get to revelation, the more Mr Pinter hides with his word games. He was always ambivalent about homecomings.

honour, two of his desperate old blimps took to the air and ended all in the traditional manner; but this being Tokyo's Irish quarter we ended, of course, with a song.

There seemed to be quite a lot of songs, about (by the talented Dave Brown, working far within his capacity), but the real trouble lay in the script, garrulous, tirelessly expository, a sort of intrusive verbal background music. The wit of the opening sequence dissolved almost at once into a morass of lugubrious whimsy. There were "characters" but no characters; there was "drama" but no drama beyond the wearisome spectacle of endlessly shaking dewlaps and incoherently accumulating chins.

Bernstein's inspiration

New York Performances conducted by Leonard Bernstein have an electricity less because of their musical value than because Bernstein's presence serves to give them a sense of occasion. This was particularly true of the two-week stint with his old orchestra, the New York Philharmonic. He deliberately chose only American music of the living composers, adding at the last minute a heartfelt rendition of the *Adagio for strings* in memory of Samuel Barber.

The two weeks were centred on the music of Copland, in honour of his eightieth birthday. The viewpoint, were present both weeks to acknowledge the standing ovations.

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Stan Tracey Ronnie Scott's

Richard Williams

Stan Tracey's octet is tearing into its Frith Street season with more ideas and conviction than I have ever heard the group display; probably the musicians are simply rising to the challenge of an extended engagement, something all too rarely offered to British modernists these days.

The opening set on Tuesday night consisted of three long pieces, each devised primarily for the benefit of the band's fine soloists but all providing evidence of Tracey's straightforwardly effective method of blending written material with improvisation.

An extended up-tempo blues, similar in spirit to Charles Mingus' "MDM", allowed space for the horns and for Tracey's piano, avoiding standard trajectories and targeting his climax at unexpected intervals. The shouting ensemble featured one glorious chorus in which Barak's Becken's trumpet and Derek Wadsworth's trombone used wa-wa mutes, flourished in the style of early Ellington, leading directly to the trombonist's solo, a combination of machine-gun stutters and broke walls. Tracey's piano spoke alone and in a duet with Art Themen's tenor saxophone. Themen, backed over cutting horn riffs, Clark Tracey showed evidence of a recent improvement in technique and imagination by placing clever cymbal rolls beneath Becken's glancing solo, and Don Weller, the Moose Malloy of the tenor saxophone, exploited his remarkable rhythmic security to haul the piece home.

A meandering ballad was largely built around the alto saxophone of Jeff Daly, whose controlled febrility consistently overcomes the derivative nature of his style. Themen's intervening solo was marked by his overuse of squawks and whimpers, eccentric effects which were never combined into a statement.

Local council spending can

could spell the end for one of the more unusual drama companies to appear in recent years. The Scottish Gaelic theatre company, it is lost its grant from the Western Isles Council (worth £15,300 this year) and as a result is in jeopardy: the arts council believes it would be extremely difficult to continue fund the group unless it has a financial support from the local authority.

For Chis, set up in 1978, it not had an easy start: based in Tarbert, on the Isle of Harris, it has to tour very widely a relatively small group of actors. Since Scotland has no 9 of Gaelic actors, it had to develop its own. The would seem said if the company was unable to grow maturity. The arts council now asked to meet the Western Isles Council to discuss whole position.

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Youths hold hostage in university

Mexico City, Feb 18.—Three young guatemalans burst into the office of the rector of the University of Mexico last night, took seven people hostage, and freed six of them, with weapons said.

The occupation began before noon, and by late evening, a team of university officials, managed to talk the gunmen into freeing all the hostages except Senator Leopoldo Silvera, personal secretary to the rector.

The officials said the gunmen, who identified themselves as students of a preparatory school, wanted more money for laboratory equipment and other furnishings at their school. They also apparently complained that the university discriminated against entrants from their school.

At first, according to the university officials, the gunmen demanded an aircraft, intending to fly to the United States but they quickly changed that demand to one of finding asylum in an unspecified country. They were said to be about 18 years old and had, between them, a rifle, a sub-machine gun and a pistol.

Campus police said the seniors had tried to capture Senator Ovario Riveria, the university rector—AP.

Indian mob sets fire to police station

From Kuldip Nagar Delhi, Feb 18.

A mob stopped and set fire to the police headquarters in Muzaffarnagar, 65 miles from here in protest at police brutality against a couple. The police opened fire, but the casualties were not known.

The riot started when Rajjit Singh and his 25-year-old wife were handcuffed, suspended from a tree and beaten unconscious. Seeing people gathering, the police let the couple go, but the two could hardly walk. The woman was taken to hospital.

The mob then attacked the police headquarters. A junior police official was stripped and beaten, and three other policemen were injured. Eighteen people were arrested.

More tourists visit China

Peking, Feb 18.—Nearly six million tourists visited China last year, a 35 per cent increase over 1979. Only 200,000 of the 5.7 million were foreigners.

The rest were mainly overseas Chinese and citizens of Hong Kong and Macao returning to visit their relatives or to tour their ancestral homeland.

Fraser Cabinet surprised by minister's departure

From Douglas Ashton Melbourne, Feb 18.

The resignation on Monday of Mr Robert Ellicott as Minister for Home Affairs and Environment who also resigned his seat in Parliament, has taken the Cabinet by surprise and will no doubt cause some embarrassment, as well as providing Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, with an opportunity to reshuffle his government.

Over the past few years there have been several resignations from the Government with the general feeling that those who have left have found Mr Fraser overbearing.

But no one seemed to know that Mr Ellicott was considering resigning and certainly the move was carried out with great speed. Mr Fraser issued a statement saying that Mr Ellicott had brought to the Government "great knowledge, understanding and drive" there is no doubt that Mr Fraser had great respect for Mr Ellicott's legal capabilities.

Less than three weeks ago the Cabinet decided against

appointing Mr Ellicott as Chief Justice of the High Court, after the retirement of his cousin, Sir Garfield Barwick. It is known that Mr Ellicott was bitterly disappointed at the decision.

He is to become a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, but it is not clear whether this appointment had anything to do with his decision to resign.

There will be a by-election for the safe Sydney seat of Wentworth, which will make a total of three by-elections facing the Government.

The parliamentary career of Mr Ellicott, who is 52, has been brief but fairly stormy. In 1977 he resigned as Attorney-General because he thought Mr Fraser was interfering with decisions which he considered should be his. Before entering Parliament in 1974, he was Solicitor General.

Mr Ellicott is known as a dedicated worker with a brilliant legal mind and an inability to compromise. Apart from his 1977 resignation, he had threatened to resign on at least two other occasions.

Play for Today BBC1

Michael Church

The other day I devoted several heated column inches to denouncing that strange prodigy whereby the BBC pours vast amounts of time, talent and money into plays which it is content to broadcast just once. I take Tuesday night's *Play for Today* by the awfully winning Stewart Parker to be the official raspberry in reply. I could be wrong, it could go on to take Monaco, Montreux and Milan by storm and bring back so many golden bears that the corporation's showcases are filled to overflowing, but I

doubt it. This was an inventively designed, devotedly acted and lovingly produced *Bad Play*.

It sprang out of a good idea. The author of *Spokesong*, *Catchpenny Twist* and *I'm a Dreamer*, Montreal had turned his Irish talent for dramatizing the dreams of the underprivileged in an interesting direction. The *Kamikaze Ground Staff Reunion Dinner* (beware of long titles) would be a sort of intrusive verbal background music. The wit of the opening sequence dissolved almost at once into a morass of lugubrious whimsy. There were "characters" but no characters; there was "drama" but no drama beyond the wearisome spectacle of endlessly shaking dewlaps and incoherently accumulating chins.

At the climax of Parker's story, after a protracted drunken argument about

Arts agenda

In two months' time English National Opera North is planning to end its fledgling role and take flight as an independent company: it expects to announce in April that it is severing the links with its parent company, English National Opera. The Leeds-based company, founded in 1978, has been promised a "not ungenerous grant" from the Arts Council for the coming year and believes it is now ready to stand alone.

Exchanges of productions with ENO will continue, but on a goodwill basis: there are also plans to swap productions with the Welsh and Scottish opera companies.

It will not celebrate its independence with a flurry of costly new productions but rather by increasing the number of performances it gives; the company is still relatively under-employed and wants to support other developments until it is providing the maximum possible number of performances. One change will be the end of its present somewhat cumbersome title: its new name is likely to be simply Opera North.

Peter Maxwell Davies' second symphony, commissioned by the Boston Symphony for its one-hundredth anniversary season, receives its premiere in Boston next Thursday with Seiji Ozawa conducting. Next month the orchestra will play it in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Britain should hear the work this summer with a performance by the BBC Symphony in London and the Proms. Both orchestras are likely to have their hands full. Davies promised a really virtuosic work, and the score indicates that this was no idle threat: the trumpet parts in the first movement alone are planned to be the most difficult to play in all but the finest players.

Julie Christie is to star in a new French film, *Les Quarante nuances du Diable* (The Forty Shades of Hell), about a roundhouse fight with Robert M. Christie, who has just finished work on *Memoirs of a Survivor*, a film about a post-apocalyptic Britain which is expected to be released towards the end of the year, will play the wifely role of the victim. Much of the shooting is planned to be done on the high seas. The *Forty Shades* will be directed by Christian B. Chalone, who has himself completed a post-holocaust film: *Malvini*, based on the novel by Robert M. Christie, about a small group in France who survive a nuclear war.

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Martin Huc

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How big does it grow?

The Bill had to be introduced in anticipation of new redundancies which would be on a very large scale. He wanted to know how many redundancies the new borrowing limit was expected to raise. The Government expected to come to a decision on the limit before the Bill was introduced, and to raise the borrowing limit again.

Did the Bill take into account the fact that the Government's plan for the new steel works at Gorgor was planning in the British Steel Corporation or the Secretary of State for the new steel works at Gorgor was planning in the coal mining industry?

The Government should give projections about the new steel works and employment levels which existed in his department but which he had come from the steel industry. What was the Government's calculations about the cost of unemployment to the steel industry? What was the borrowing requirement?

On public expenditure cuts, the Government seemed unable to make any decisions. He was sure that when their frequent claims that they were reducing manpower in the public sector, they were creating unemployment and redundancy.

It was a crazy economy when people doing useful jobs like bus drivers, dustmen, and dinner ladies, were thrown out of work and the Government was cutting jobs in the rate support grant and

Game, set and match to miners

parts of British industry for which the Prime Minister was an enthusiastic assessor.

Mr James Pridie, Secretary of State for Employment (Lowestoft, C) said payments from the Redundancy Fund would be made on the same basis as they had before. There was no indication that the Government would make any changes.

The Bill was designed to deal with a deficit. It was expected the deficit would be temporary and would disappear after time took its course.

There were no proposals for changing the existing basis of taxation.

Simple retortion, if it were an option open to them, would not have the effect of reducing unemployment, except by comparatively small amounts. That was why they had to get down the rate of inflation. The problem was the rise of labour unit costs. Britain had become a less competitive nation.

It was their objective over a period to convert the youth opportunity programme into a training ship for young people who did not get any form of training after leaving school.

They were aware of the shortcomings of the redundancy payments system. There should perhaps be an opportunity for a further review of the whole system. It might be necessary to consider radical solutions to be considered.

The Bill was read a second time and passed its remaining stages.

BSC policy is to match competitive prices

Airlines showing spirit of innovation in grim market



Royal Bank of Scotland in

stone lift shaft, is the most exciting; the rather enclosed feeling in the depth of the building is opened out by the stairwell, the colours and detailing are crisp, and there are marvellous views of Edinburgh as one mounts the staircases. So fine, indeed, is this circulation area that it contrasts strangely with the remainder of the building, which is good, but not special. Indeed, it seems to lack some of the touches of fashion and excitement after which banks are striving these days.

In sum, this is not a building that shows a lack of care. It may demonstrate the wrong type of care, and it could be that given the preservation of the façade, the architects should have made greater efforts to integrate it into the new building below. What is true, however, is that this development is an exemplar of many of the present difficulties facing architecture, and is worth a visit to see one method of solution.

Architecture

ctory for preservationists

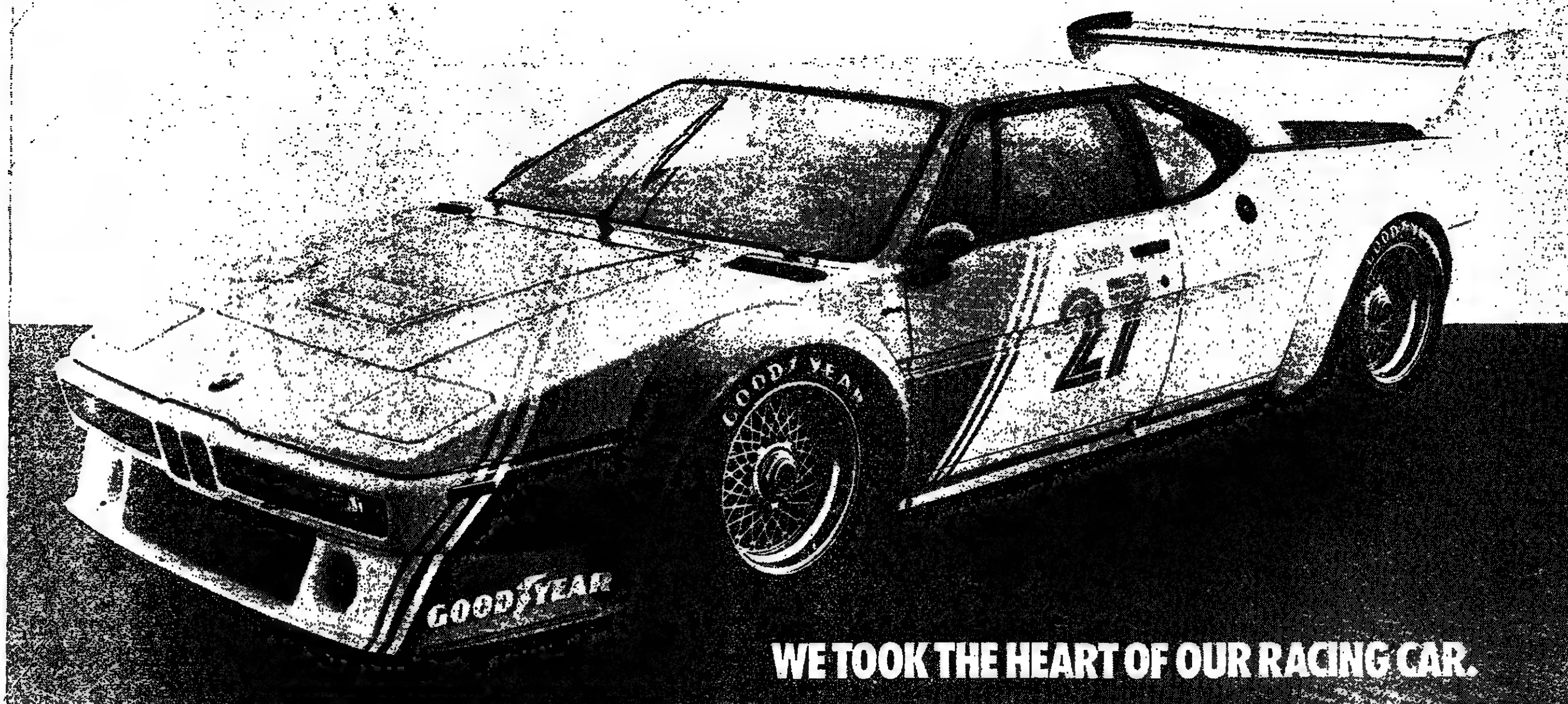


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Normal	== 35	Hard	==
Oslo	== 35	Good	==
Voss	== 200	Good	==



BMW have never felt that ostentation served any useful purpose.

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performance engines whose sheer brute force almost bullies you to drive faster than you want to go.

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Bernard Levin

What's your name then?

We are always told that it is rude to make jokes or other adverse comments about people's faces or names, as no one can help either. Since neither half of the proposition is true (anyone can change his name, and the variety of aids to face-amendment is constantly growing), I have never seen the whole I have obeyed it, if only for the sake of peace and quiet. So when, a few years ago, I stumbled across a little American book called *Remarkable Names of Real People*, by John Train, I said nothing, though the book consisted entirely of a list of names which excited mirth without any additional comment at all.

Now, however, doubtless encouraged by the success of his first volume, Mr Train has published a sequel, *Even More Remarkable Names*, and I can no longer refrain. The whole thing started with a letter from a lady in Florida who wrote to a local academic to enquire whether she had the funniest name in the world; her desire for reassurance on the point was understandable, in view of the fact that she was called Mrs Verbal Funderburk, but the book was destined to give reassurance of a very different kind—by the time the reader has finished it, the good Mrs F might as well be called Smith or Jones for all the impact she makes. Indeed, an amazingly rich is Mr Train's collection that he can afford to throw away, in the introduction to his first volume such figures as Mac Aroon, Clear Stubbs and Virgin Lands, and to relegate to the humble status of footnotes in his second such figures as Legitimus, Equinox, Grossnickel, Zedibba, Cabbagelack, Halibut, Jasta Fish and the siblings Bump and Twinkle Quick.

But what would you? The first volume starts with A. A. D'Artagnan Umplopapas Dynamite Macaulay, and goes on almost immediately with Ave Maria Klunkenberg and Bambina Broccoli. The editor then rather spoils things by including Batsheba Finkelstein; I will have him know that my celebrated Bessarabian grandmother was called Batsheba Nemkovsky, and anyway Batsheba is one of the most beautiful of names, whatever it may be followed by. But Miss Finkelstein is followed in volume one by—I now begin to quote at random, there really being no other place to quote at—the Reverend Canaan Banana, now President of Zimbabwe (though President Gubbins of Chad is unfortunately omitted), Daphne Reader's Digest, Taine (who reminds me that there is a town in Arizona called Truth and Consequences, after a television quiz-game of the inclusion of place-names), and the inclusion of place-names could have extended to the plume too far, possibly even as far as that town in New Zealand, from which I occasionally see a postcard, which is mysteriously entitled Levin).

Charles Adolphe Faux-Fas Bides, Gaston Feebledumpty, Halloween Buggage, Madonna Ghosly, Mark Clark Van Ark, Trailing Arbutus Vines and Zoda Viola Kiontz Gezoia.

But that was only the first slant. *Even More Remarkable Names* includes Aurora Borealis Belsky, Cardiac Arrest da Silva, Christ T. Seraphim, Easter Buggage (daughter of the Halloween Buggage in the first book, and born between the two) Ecstasy Goon, Eucalyptus Yohno, Hector Spector, Heidi Yum-Yum Gluck, Hogswaddle, Pirouette Spiegel, Odious Champagne, Solomon Gemorah and John Hodge Opera House Centennial Gargling Oil Samuel J. Tilden Ten Brook, Oh, and Pepsi Cola Atom-Bomb Washington.

Now it must be stressed that Mr Train insists on documentary proof of the existence of these people before he will include them in his compilations; difficult though it may be to believe, therefore, they really are (or were, for he includes dead but verified examples, too) people who go on or have gone through life with handles such as these. It is vain to speculate on what precisely, or in some cases even approximately, their parents thought they were doing; it is equally

vain to feel that they ought not to be made mock of; our guilt will not help to cure their neuroses. But of course the only point in writing a column on a subject like this is to go on, or better still several, better.

We who do upon Beachcomber's List of Huntingdonshire Cabmen and the Seven Red-Bearded Dwarfs (who included Sophus Barkaya-Tong, Edelel Edel, Frums Gillygoose and—oh, I might as well give them all—Scorpion de Rooftrouser, Churn Rincewind, Cleveland Zackhouse and Tololony Tubdlerboast) are hardly likely to be impressed by Plato Foulas, Mrs Tackaberry MacAdoo and Thumelda Neusickle, from Mr Train's first volume, or Loch Ness Hontas, Lavender Hankey or Earless Romero, from his second, genuine articles though they be, and a nation which has in its time had Mr Denis Healey as its Chancellor of the Exchequer will not consider Mr Train's work done until a third volume includes that most remarkable Siamese finance minister of some years back, Prince Dam Rang.

Tan Mackay, the great *News Chronicle* columnist, once dug out of some ancient newspaper files the result of a competition to find the most remarkable real name, and printed a selection of the finalists, though without much hope, as he said, of convincing his readers that he hadn't made them up. Which is not surprising in view of the fact that they included Sepimus Burt Fish and through Trial And Tribulation We Come At Last To Heaven Slappe.

My family used to know a New York family which, in the first flush of enthusiasm for Freud's newest ally in the 1940s, named their son Joseph Stalin Pomerantz; only the other day my eye fell upon the striking moniker Brigadier O'Brien Twohig; for years and years I used to think that the famous Irish solicitor, Argey and Phibbs were apocryphal, until somebody sent me a letter he had received from them; and Herbert Kreizmer of the *Daily Mail* insists that there is a man in the Nairobi telephone book called Theanderblast Mischgedag Sump, though it is only right to add that I do not believe him.

It is the same Kreizmer, incidentally, who told me the lamentable tale of George C. Ziglbauser, of whom I was reminded when I came across Glosia Werbersch-Piffel, a Hollywood actress, in Mr Train's compilation. George C. Ziglbauser was a well-known Hollywood figure in the Thirties. I think in some lesser but essential trade such as make-up or sex-industry, who was constantly suffering teasing, jeers and ridicule because of his name. Eventually he could bear no more, and changed his name to Sinclair, which did him little good, as he was ever thereafter known throughout the industry as Upton Ziglbauser.

Once, staying with Quentin Crewe, I plucked down *Who's Who* and read aloud, in sonorous tones (I subsequently set the whole thing to music), my favourite entry, which reads, in part:

Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, 7th Bt; son of Rustomjee J. C. Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy and Soonabai Rustomjee Byramjee Jejeebhoy. Succeeded cousin, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, 6th Bt, and assumed name of Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy in lieu of Manekjee Rustomjee Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Chairman, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Charity Funds, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Parsse Benevolent Institution, Trustee, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy School of Arts, Byramjee Jejeebhoy Parsse Benevolent Institution. Heir: Rustomjee Jejeebhoy.

Blot me if Quentin didn't promptly cap it by bidding me turn to:

Sir Olateru Oba Alajeluwa Olagbegi II, the Olowo of Owo, son of Oba Alajeluwa Olagbegi I; married, many sons and daughters; Educated, Owo Government School; Treasury Clerk in Owo Native Administration; Address: PO Box 1, Afin Oba Olateru Oba Alajeluwa Olagbegi I; Telephone number: Owo 1.

Times Newspapers Limited, 1981

Ronald Butt

Rebirth of a nation

There is no comparison between the sort of immigration experienced by Britain in the past 30 years and what happened in the previous 1,500

loyalty to the common state. Great Britain, whose Crown unites them. In Spain there are several nations and there is some friction between them; in Belgium there are two linguistic nations whose rivalry is the most disruptive part of Belgian politics, though to an outsider the Belgians still seem united by more than divides them. In Germany there is one nation but two political states.

In the USSR and throughout the states of Asia and Africa there are multiplicities of national tribal and linguistic divisions which are of great political and social importance. In the new Zimbabwe, there is strife between two tribal nations.

The essential feature of nationhood is, of course, the wish of people sharing the same sense of identity, customs, and (in the broader sense) kinship, to live together in the same territory. They do not wish to share that territory with any sizable (the qualification is all-important) number of others. Several nations can give allegiance to a state, but they usually wish to occupy their own part of its land and their wish is usually understood.

We do not, for instance, think it odd or reprehensible that many Welsh people should feel anxious for their culture if their valleys are occupied by too many English but we are expected, it seems, to think it morally objectionable for an urban Englishman to complain when he finds himself in a "national" minority in the district where he lives. The fundamental fact of nationhood is that people with the same traditions, background and language, enjoying the easy interchange of shared understanding, tend to like living and working together.

Yet with a prospect that in greater London about 20 per cent of the future population will be of New Commonwealth or Pakistani origin (the concentration is much higher in particular districts) the English inhabitants are

exhorting not to notice or to mind. They are told that historically they have always been a mixture (Danes, Normans and Huguenots are called in aid) and that what is happening is nothing new.

In reality, the English people have been pretty homogeneous since the first English settlers of this island 1,500 years ago. Anglo-Saxons and Danes were similar and neighbouring peoples speaking a similar language and sharing an ancient culture and religious tradition from pre-Christian times. Once the Danes ceased to come, those here were easily assimilated. As for the Normans, they were themselves Vikings speaking French, and they came in small numbers as a conquering upper class. For a couple of centuries it cannot have been pleasant to be a downgraded Anglo-Saxon, but in due course, with the Normans cut off from their French relations, homogeneity began again to prevail and shared Englishness reasserted itself, with one common language.

As for the refugees, the Huguenots came in limited numbers to Britain precisely because they were turned out of France for professing the same religion as the English majority; while the Jews came as refugees from tyrannies, as a migration looking simply for prosperity.

In short, there is no comparison in either kind or extent between the sort of immigration experienced by Britain in the past 30 years and what happened in the previous 1,500. What has happened recently has created new phrases and uneasy community relations which have to be corrected by force of law. It has been an immigration of people many of whom have a wholly different culture and language; some of whom wish to share this difference by arranged marriages.

Sometimes, of course, they are discriminated against. Yet which of the immigrant groups is really able to cast

the first stone in this matter of discrimination by kindred and national grouping? It has been commonplace for "ethnic" groups to work together. We used to take it quite for granted that there were many Jewish firms employing principally Jews; I do not hear many complaints now about factory shifts divided ethnically among different groups of new immigrants. Yet if there were comparable "English" places of work, there would immediately be charges of racial discrimination.

Indeed, we invent procedures under which it is pronounced that not to allow a Sikh nurse to wear trousers on duty is racial discrimination and which demands instead that in this hospital obligatory uniform skirts should be abandoned for all nurses. At the time of the Bristol riots, it was freely suggested that the cause was the refusal of the police to bend the law to suit minority attitudes over duigs.

It has repeatedly been alleged that fears of disturbing rivalries within the community were unjustified and only self-fulfilling. Yet at the very moment that the Nationality Bill is so bitterly attacked as racist, Mr Whitelaw feels obliged to instigate a investigation into extremist groups that really are racist in a malign sense, that offer hostility and violence to immigrants already settled as peaceful subjects of the Crown; racialist groups that flourish only because of a sense of insecurity among some of the older nationalities in these islands.

A new feeling of nationality is now needed to embrace all who live here.

Why should religious leaders condemn this sense of nationhood any more than the sense of family? Each has its own moral obligations and its own part in the scheme of human life. After immigration such as we have known in the past quarter of a century, a new sense of cohesion must be created. Nationality must be redefined so as to take account of all new here who have been recent immigrants of one kind or another. It is not a line drawn across the page of recent immigration. That is as important as it was when Danes and Normans were cut off from their external roots. Nationality has to be redefined, not in terms of race, but in terms of shared values and shared goals, in order to recreate national cohesion. I cannot see what, on religious or moral grounds, is objectionable about that.

Have a care when someone says share

New words and new meanings: an occasional series by Philip Howard

I think that we need to keep our eyes and ears on this so-called moral majority that is supposed to have helped to elect Ronald Reagan as President. Not only must we question their assertion that they are in a majority, and their desire to turn it into a monopoly. Not only must we remember that moral majorities are in most cases two per cent moral, 28 per cent envy and 70 per cent envious and feeble-mindedness. We must also watch their language, so that their Pecksniffian cant does not seep into general use without challenge. As William Balfour De La Motte, memorably, in *The Seaman's Spiritual Companion*:

"So 'tis with Christians, Nature being weak, While in this world are liable to leak." Let us plug a leak or two.

It has recently become fashionable for orators of all sorts to open their speeches to their audience with the words: "I want to share with you..." or words to that effect. This use of share comes from the enthusiastic jargon of born-again Christians. It is a funny use of share, a funny use of the word, and a funny use of the word, which they keep part for themselves, and divide the rest among others, often aqully. Your moral majority orator keeps back nothing for himself or herself, but shares the stars sharing. It all leaks out.

Memo to oneself: when a speaker announces that he is going to share something with you, resign yourself to listening to a speech that is intolerably long, smug, and sanctimonious. If you are unlucky enough to be invited to a religious rather than a political meeting, he may also try confessing grand but improbable and vague sins.

This specialised, selfish version of sharing comes from the hot, thick right of politics. The sanctimonious new use of "caring" comes, I suspect, from the left or, at any rate, the wet. It has become a very fashionable as a vacuous hooray-word in the cant of left-wing and liberal politics. It lays claim to a monopoly of righteousness for the speaker or his programme or policy. Anybody who opposes him is an uncaring, unfeeling, and, I dare say, racist pig.

Well, we all care about something. A man who cared about nothing would be a catatonie vegetable. Sam Johnson observed that some people have a foolish way of not minding, or pretending not to mind, what he said. If he is really minding, he will be very studiously, and very carefully. For I look upon it, that he who does not mind his belly will hardly mind anything else. The vague use of caring, like moral majority, assumes priggishly and stupidly that nobody else cares or has morals.

Sometimes the two moral majority words are used together, as in a recent, muzzling slogan: "If everybody cared enough, and everybody shared enough, surely everybody would have enough?" That is simple-minded economic nonsense in the name of the world, and in the world taken as a great, big, happy family. We need more than caring, sharing, jargon in the real world. It is also noticeable that those who make such windy rhetoric are well-fed, well-dressed, and well-off. The louder the moral majority talk about sharing and caring, the faster let us count our spoons.

Correction

In the article on New Delhi published on Monday, Sir Ronald Blomfield should have been named as the alternative partner to Sir Edwin Lutyens and not his uncle, Sir Arthur Blomfield.

Alan Hamilton



A relaxed Lord Denning in his garden.

Judging the judicial monarch

Lord Denning excites extremes of opposing views. Seen by some as a saint who can do no wrong, by others as a once great judge who is now ruled more by prejudice than by the law, he is, like all other judges of this century, the subject of intense interest and controversy, and not just among lawyers. He is now 82, and there is much speculation about whether or not he should resign. He shows no signs of failing mental ability, but has, in some eyes, become too big for his judicial boots.

The trouble about the Denning debate is that much of it is based on emotion rather than knowledge. A few striking cases stay in the memory, and they are different cases for different people. To the majority of the population he is probably known as the champion of the little man battling against the authority, the judge who chooses to do justice rather than keep to the strict letter of the law. But that is not the universal view of him. He arouses apoplexy in other circles.

A group of young law lecturers, mainly from Scottish universities, have set themselves the task of trying to answer the great Denning conundrum: "Does this judicial monarch wear any conceptual clothes? Are his judgments based on anything more than hunch, whim or even prejudice, and thus an affront to true law, which forms a cohesive system, is consistent in application and so predictable in its future effects?" Is the justice which he so often invokes as his guiding light amid the encircling gloom of bad precedents not a futile and wayward torch? And how can this "brazed judicial law-making" be reconciled with the assumption of parliamentary democracy?

As the above passage may suggest, the authors of the various essays in *Judging Lord Denning and the Constitution* (Gower Publishing, hardback £10.50, paperback £5.50) are not committed Denning-lovers. Their analysis, however, deserves attention as an antidote both to the excessive and sometimes embarrassing hero-worship and praise that has attended the Master of the Rolls, and to the mindless and ill-founded political slanging to which he has sometimes been subjected.

The conclusions reached may not be palatable to the uncritical admirers. The authors argue that Lord Denning "has slowly eroded the statutory rights of tenants until they are virtually deprived of the protection which Parliament introduced"; that he has been "less than vigilant in defence of the limited rights of the underprivileged"; that his judgments have made it more and more difficult to predict when and how judicial control will be exercised over the activities of administrative bodies; and that he has consistently placed himself on the side of the great support of governmental secrecy, with little or no regard for the public interest in open government.

These are not new opinions, but they are at least made following detailed examination of Lord Denning's judgments and his extra-judicial comments. The authors' conclusions may not convince, but their research is impressive. If there is to be continuing debate about Lord Denning, this is the level at which it should be conducted.

Marcel Berins
Legal Correspondent

LONDON DIARY

Maggie wins the Fany award

One of the highlights of the Prime Minister's visit to the United States later this month, apart of course from allowing President Reagan to have an audience with her, will be the presentation to her of the Donovan Prize, a little-known award of which Mrs Thatcher will be the first woman recipient.

The prize is named after a certain General "Wild Bill" Donovan, a First World War American hero who led the fighting Irish of New York. In the Second World War Donovan rose to be head of the Office of Strategic Services, the Americans' principal intelligence and black propaganda outfit.

Donovan died in 1959, and a body known as the "Veterans of the OSS" established the award in his memory. He presented to suitable candidates who embodied the general's love of freedom and democracy.

The lovers of freedom and democracy who have had this honour bestowed upon them in the past have not all been remarkable for their left-wing, or even middle-of-the-road, views. They include Allen Dulles, the one-time head of the CIA, Earl Mountbatten, the moon astronaut Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, David Bruce, the former US ambassador in London, and Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the Gaullist president of the French National Assembly.

Geoffrey Jones, president of the Veterans of the OSS, told my colleague Michael Leapman in New York yesterday that they thought it appropriate the award should go to a woman this time, not least because during the war the OSS had worked closely with a women's branch of the British Service, which he recalled being known as Fany.

"Mrs Thatcher embodies the fighting spirit, courage and willingness to take risks to achieve goals, as the general did," said Jones. "And anyway, we're sort of running out of old dodos who were with us in the service."

On the button

The corridors of Whitehall will be emptying earlier than usual on Monday as civil servants hurry home to see the first in a new series of the BBC2 comedy series, *Yes Minister*.

Although the scripts were written last summer, the problems which will confront Jim Hacker and Sir Humphrey Appleby in coming weeks have a remarkably topical flavour: overmanning in the health service, an appearance before a Commons Select Committee, and an increase in overseas students' fees.

The programmes are meticulously researched. Scriptwriters and leading actors have sat in on Select Committee hearings, and visited a minister's private office at the invitation of civil servants. As a result, perceptive viewers will observe that Hacker's diary is always filled in with a pencil, never in ink. "Just one of the little things we noticed," co-author Antony Jay told me.

Our own wide coverage of Whitehall affairs, as well as the revelations of Crossman and other political diaries, have all

provided material for the series. Jay also draws on an extensive network of retired permanent secretaries. He is particularly pleased with the accuracy of a forthcoming scene in which Sir Humphrey is ticked off by the Secretary of the Cabinet.

"I think we've got the language right," he told me with conviction. The format of the series has already been sold to an American television company, and a professor of politics from California has even asked for tapes of the programme to show to his students.

Wet line

I hear that a new use has been found for part of the redundant 165-mile network of underground pipes belonging to the London Hydraulic Power Company that used to raise the bascules of Tower Bridge, lower the victualling curtain of the Palladium, and elevate shoppers to the upper floors of Harrods.

Permission is being sought by the GLC to install a data transmission link between County Hall and New Scotland Yard. The fibre optics cable to



be laid in one of the old water pipes, is not, I was assured yesterday, to enable the police to keep a closer eye on some of the darker machinations of

County Hall. It is to link new GLC and police computers which will control London's traffic lights and, it is hoped, cut journey times by 8 per cent.

At least that is what the GLC claimed. They also said that the present computer controlling 1,100 traffic lights had cut journey times in central London by one-tenth. I can't say I'd noticed.

London Hydraulic gave up providing water power in 1977, and since then have not known what to do with their pipelines, they dismissed suggestions that they be used to pump ice cream around the metropolis from one Dayville's parlour to another.

The suspicious GLC cable will cross Westminster Bridge by a duct and join the old Hydraulic network under Big Ben, to continue up Victoria Street. For some reason yesterday the Hydraulic company's manager was distinctly unwilling to talk about it, although the firm thinks the use of their network for data transmission could be greatly extended. As one pipeline runs directly from Limehouse to Westminster, I

suppose it could be converted to carry social democratic manifestos.

Book now

Glad tidings today to bibliophiles and bibliographers, who must after a long time have been waiting for this really annotated *Tactius*, with a trickle of text surrounded by vast swamps of commentary and gloss.

This will enable academic publishers, who have large numbers of books in their warehouses unsold because of the impoverishment of the reading classes, to clear their shelves and convert their stock into cash.

It is the first time that publishers have marketed books direct at a discount except through the various Book-of-the-Month Clubs. Not such glad tidings, however, for the conventional booksellers, who screamed foul and described the scheme as a travesty of

book marketing and partial re-mantling quite outside book trade channels.

After indignant consultation, the same discount will also be available through selected bookshops. Glad tidings for classicists, anyway. This really is the time to buy that vast annotated *Tactius*, with a trickle of text surrounded by vast swamps of commentary and gloss.

White odds are about even on the Pope saying Mass in Canterbury Cathedral in 1982. I gather there is an outside chance of an even more Baroque communion with his visit—the canonization of that good and saintly king, Henry VI. Some 150 miracles have been attributed to his name: what more could the Pope want, in advertising the spirit of ecumenical benevolence, than a kindly saint ready for mutual acclamation? By missed the Reformation, by some 50 years, which makes him safely non-controversial.



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NUCLEAR POWER IN DISARRAY

In its first report, the new Select Committee on Energy has made a powerful attack on the nuclear industry. This is not surprising. The history of the development of nuclear power in Britain over the past decade and a half has been a sorry tale of wrong decisions, missed opportunities, and wasted money. But this does not mean that the Committee's recommendations are right.

On coming to power, the present administration quickly realized that the nuclear industry was in disarray, and that if nuclear power was going to play an important role in meeting the energy needs of the future it would need new orders and a commitment to a steady ordering programme. In fact, Mr Howell's statement of December 1979 was little more than a reaffirmation of the policy of the previous government. It backed the electricity authorities in building two British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs), while establishing the option of an alternative by putting a reactor (PWR)—the type damaged at Three Mile Island—through a public inquiry, and ordering roughly one station a year of each type for ten years from 1982.

The programme appeared modest but rapidly ran into trouble as the Central Electricity Generating Board cut its demand estimates by 7 per cent. The

Central Policy Review Staff was called in to examine whether the two recently ordered British AGRs should go ahead. After much heart searching in Cabinet the industry was allowed to continue with both. The Select Committee has not had the benefit of seeing the CPRS report, but it is convinced that only one of the AGRs should have been ordered. A minority of three of its members believed it was wrong to order either, arguing that the generating capacity was unnecessary and that the British design would be unlikely to produce electricity at sufficiently low cost.

The committee recognizes that it is now too late to cancel either order. In fact there have always been strong industrial arguments for keeping both going, as it is extremely doubtful whether the building of one AGR after a ten-year break in ordering would have been sufficient to keep the British design as a true alternative if the American PWR failed to win public consent. But the main thrust of the Committee's argument is to suggest that failing to order a second AGR would have been a more realistic and ambitious programme, one which would have been evaluated on its economic merits.

This does not seem sharply different from Mr Howell's own statement that the precise level of future ordering should depend

on the development of electricity demand and the performance of the industry. But it is very different in spirit, rejecting the idea of a steady ordering programme, which the industry so desperately needs. In fact the Committee does not want another station to be ordered until the first PWR is nearing completion, and that is likely to be at least six years away. The report says the Committee does not want to create uncertainty, but that is exactly what it does, and that uncertainty is compounded by a recommendation that the Government look urgently at the Canadian CANDU reactor, the performance and safety of which the Committee much admires.

The CANDU option is seen by the Committee as an alternative if the PWR fails its public inquiry. That is always a possibility but there can be no guarantee that the CANDU would be any more acceptable than the PWR, and in the AGR Britain has a machine which, despite its high cost and unreliability, is regarded by many as a potentially successful reactor. The Government should be well advised to stick to the policy it has adopted. In providing energy for the future it is better to over-order rather than under-order. More than anything else, what the nuclear industry now needs is the assurance of stable policies.

AMERICA'S DILEMMA IN EL SALVADOR

The European trip by Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, the Assistant Secretary of State, designate, an indication of the seriousness with which the Reagan Administration is treating the crisis in El Salvador. Mr Eagleburger, who is due in London today, has already been in Bonn, Paris and Brussels, and in each place he has been anxious to present the American version of events. Basically, this is that the Soviet Union, Cuba and other communist countries are intervening in El Salvador by providing military aid to the guerrilla movement, and that the governing junta of military men and Christian Democrats should be supported. Clearly Mr Eagleburger must be listened to and his evidence of foreign intervention studied. Equally clearly he must expect a certain scepticism. The unfortunate truth about El Salvador is that it has suffered from military repression for nearly 50 years, and that the military have tended to be supported by moneyed interests and the political right. Like other similar regimes in Central America, the Salvadorean military have also been backed by the United States. It is not to condone the activities of the guerrillas to say that it is hardly surprising that a violent

resistance movement has grown up. Its emergence is not the doing of Cubans or other outside agents. The best way for the Americans to react is not simply to back a policy of repression in the name of anti-communism. Such an approach can do nothing to solve the very serious difficulties faced by El Salvador, and could in the long run lead to the installation of just the sort of anti-American leftist regime it was intended to prevent.

If there is firm evidence of Soviet, Cuban or other intervention in El Salvador, that would be a serious matter, and no European government could treat it lightly. But the crisis in El Salvador, like difficulties in the rest of Central America, is more a matter of foreign intervention, and Europeans would like to feel that the Reagan Administration appreciates the complexity of the situation. The Carter Administration understood the issue, and responded by seeking amicable relations with the revolutionary government of Nicaragua, promoting reform in El Salvador, and emphasizing human rights throughout the region. The policy failed in El Salvador because the moderates who joined the military government were not able to control the

rightists in the armed forces and elsewhere. But that is no reason to revert to the simplistic approach of previous administrations, which tended to put the fight against communism above all other considerations.

The danger for the Americans is that El Salvador could become a running sore in their foreign policy, with public opinion ranged against them across the world. Parallels could be drawn with Vietnam, or mutatis mutandis, with Afghanistan if they went so far as to commit troops. Luckily there is every sign that they are aware of the danger and Mr Eagleburger's trip with its aim of consulting America's allies before policy has been formed, is to be welcomed. It is true that El Salvador, on the United States' doorstep, is of far greater concern to them than to the Europeans. It is also true that some European countries would be prepared to support American policy in El Salvador, whatever it was, because of their need for American support in areas of greater importance to them. But an American policy of just providing arms and not trying to bring about a negotiated settlement would cause considerable strains.

CIVIL SABOTEURS?

The Civil Service unions, who have been offered 6 per cent and may have the sum increased to 1 per cent when they meet Lord James on Monday, have been earning themselves for industrial action the 15 per cent that they think their due. Regional action committees have been formed, sensitive targets chosen, a "communications centre" set up in Westminster, endorsement of the membership has been secured or being sought.

The way the union spokesmen see it is that civil servants are being treated in an intolerable fashion by the Government. A twenty-five-year-old agreement about the method of fixing their pay has been broken. Facts about movement of pay rates outside the region being ignored, though produced by an independent research body. They are being discriminated against for political purposes and to set an example to others. They are nine what any trade union could do in the circumstances: refusing to be walked over and threatening to retaliate.

That is how they see themselves. It is not how others see

them. From outside they look like a large, swollen, class of employees which has fared well in recent times in respect of pay, pension rights and job security. This time they are being required to make do with a small increase of size common enough throughout manufacturing industry, and in service industries outside the financial sector where there are still rich pickings to be had. The preparations they are making, with the care and vocabulary of a general staff, may look to them like normal collective sanctions for use by those labouring under a large grievance. From a little further away they look like a conspiracy to sabotage crucial parts of the financial business of the state.

The general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation said the other day that there was a serious risk that some of his members would sabotage tax computers because of their depth of feeling about the pay negotiations. He was careful to say that his union would not condone such action, which would indeed be criminal. If the general secretary is right and that is the state of mind of some inland revenue officials; and if, as must be supposed, it is a state of mind that is not confined to one Civil Service union; and since a readiness to cripple some important operation of government by damaging the equipment on which it is performed is but an extreme instance of a commoner readiness to cripple the operation by damaging the administrative process necessary for its performance; then the attitude of public servants towards the duties they are entrusted with by the state has undergone a sad corruption.

In the interval of sharpening their contingency plans to disrupt the flow of government business, the leaders of the civil servants' trade unions ought to pause to reconsider the attitude that is implicit in their preparations. There are a lot of civil servants, but some have a public charge of business that is central to the state. They are in positions of exceptional public trust. They also as a class have a more than average interest in the order, effectiveness and reliability of the public administration. And of course they ought to be treated

fairly. Having increased income from its activities—through sponsorship and otherwise—the Poetry Society last year £5,000 of its A.C.B.G. grant last year in the form of a "guarantee against loss". For next year the A.C.B.G. have reduced the society's grant by a further £5,000 (£15,000 in real terms). This further cut is probably the result of our making a surplus last year. This latest cut must place in jeopardy our ability to continue raising income in the way the Arts Council suggests, for the society uses its public money so that for every £1 it receives it generates a still larger sum.

Surely financial efficiency and success should be rewarded rather than penalized by the A.C.B.G.? This should be especially so when the A.C.B.G. is cutting its own subsidy to many organizations and when public money spent on the arts should be seen to be effective in promoting the arts.

We are our obedient servants, CLIFFORD SIMMONS, Chairman, DANNE ARSE, President, ALAN BROWNJOHN, Deputy Chairman, BERNARD BROOK-PARTIDGE, NORMAN BUCHAN, The Poetry Society, 21 Earls Court Square, SW5, February 5.

Arts sponsorship

From the Chairman of the Poetry Society and others. Sir, Despite the exhortations of the Minister for the Arts that arts organizations increase their income from commercial sponsorship, the experience of the Poetry Society suggests that the Arts Council of Great Britain can act to discourage this.

Need to expand the economy

From Professor W. A. H. Godley. Sir, By general consent, the first major industrial slump since the thirties has now arrived. But those who believed a sustained recovery will occur, without a complete reversal of policy are wrong.

The Minister keeps saying that full employment policies such as those followed by Mr Macmillan inevitably led to higher prices. This is not true. Under Mr Butler and Mr Macmillan inflation fell pretty steadily from 9 per cent per annum in the two years 1950-52 to under 1 per cent per annum in the two years 1958-60. Nor is it true that inflation dies down, this by itself will create jobs. An increase in jobs can only occur if there is a large and sustained increase in sales of British-produced goods and services.

The exchange rate has now been high for so long that changes in exports and import penetration are bound to exert a negative influence on sales for several years even if inflation falls to nil. There is nothing under present policies to offset this except some small, temporary relief when despoiling comes to an end.

It is time people stopped assuming that a spontaneous recovery is round the corner and realized that the slump, so far from coming to an end, is in its early stages. They should see that it is a matter of desperate urgency for the survival of our industries and the future of our society that, whether or not import controls are imposed, fiscal and monetary policy should now be changed to expand demand and bring down the exchange rate.

The longer an attempt at expansion is delayed, the more our economy will be devastated and, since new policies take a long time to be effective, the greater the difficulties that will then be encountered.

Yours faithfully, WYNNE GODLEY, Department of Applied Economics, University of Cambridge, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge.

More work, more leisure

From Mr Mark Wathen. Sir, In the early thirties, as a humble junior bank clerk in a provincial town, I wrote to you on the subject of unemployment. The gist of my letter was that we had now reached an era in history when, at last, man need not work so hard, having invented machines to help him. Working hours could therefore be reduced and man could learn to use his leisure. Fearing that, in the unlikely event of your publishing my letter, my employers might disapprove, I later cabled you not to publish it. You kindly published my thoughts as a fourth letter.

Fifty years later one wonders, once more, whether this grave problem is being approached in the right way. As far as we create jobs we create machines to do those jobs. If, however, all quarters were for leisure, as was possible, and we achieved a much shorter working week, more of us would be working and we should be able to enjoy more leisure, which we should have to learn how to use. Many of us would earn less, but many more out of work would be employed.

I have put this approach to others in responsible positions and on the shop floor: I have had nothing but agreement, with the proviso that the problems would be formidable and that it could not be applied to self-employed. It would be interesting to hear the views of others. Yours faithfully, MARK WATHEN, Talisker House, Carbot, Isle of Skye, February 4.

Intervention in Poland

From Professor Robin Kemball. Sir, Soviet intervention in Polish affairs seems to be increasingly regarded as an "inevitable" corollary of the Yalta agreement on all sides one hears expressions of not only surprise and relief, but almost of gratitude and admiration, that the Russians have been "tolerant" so long.

It seems high time to point out that, by any normal standards, there is not and cannot be one iota of justification for any such interference, which, Yalta or no Yalta, socialism or no socialism, would still represent a flagrant breach of all those international obligations to which the Soviet Government has voluntarily subscribed (a view recently expressed, incidentally, by other communist states such as Romania and Yugoslavia).

The measure of people's "relief" is exactly the measure of the outrageous standards of international conduct to which the Soviet Union has accustomed us hitherto. Only against such utterly false criteria does observation of the elementary norms of international decency take on any significance.

It may well be true, as you stated in your letter yesterday (February 11) that "the Soviet Union's interest in Poland is probably more military than ideological", but this applies not only to the United States in relation to their NATO allies. Yet who has ever suggested that the United States had a right to intervene (let alone dreamed of intervening) militarily in any of those NATO countries which from time to time have put at risk the security of the Alliance: Turkey and Greece, Portugal (when that country seemed on the brink of a communist takeover), not to mention France, who withdrew from the NATO pact altogether?

This seems to be one more sphere in which people, even those of the highest intentions, are becoming the unwitting victims of a myth and are in serious danger of applying double standards.

I am, Sir, your faithful obedient servant, ROBIN KEMBALL, Université de Lausanne, Faculté des Lettres, Section de Langues Slaves, Rue Cité-Devant 2, CH-1005 Lausanne, February 12.

SAS conduct in embassy siege

From Brigadier J. J. H. Simpson (Retd).

Sir, The Attorney General has already pointed out (February 17) the selective nature of the facts advanced by Mr Bruce Harris (February 16), and where he has his facts wrong.

As an ex-Commander of The Special Air Service, I would make two points only, which I suspect are not fully understood. The use of anything other than reasonable force was unacceptable. The SAS are used as a very last resort when all other means of saving hostages have failed. The legal requirements and procedures leading to their use have been exhaustively studied and rehearsed. 2. Once committed, the overriding priority of the troops involved is to save hostages' lives (incidentally at very great risk to their own). At Knightbridge the terrorists had six days in which to surrender and, when the assault went in, they had already killed. In the split-second timing necessary to save hostages there could be no question of the SAS taking the slightest chance of the terrorists using the weapons in their possession, or which might have been concealed.

Without knowing any details of the Embassy siege beyond what I have read in the press or seen on television, I would venture to suggest that a number of hostages might not be alive today had the SAS not acted as they did. The SAS are a very carefully selected and professional body of men who know not only the risks they run, but also the law as it stands.

Yours faithfully, J. J. H. SIMPSON, c/o Barclays Bank International Ltd, 33 Old Broad Street, EC2.

Nationality Bill

From Mr Ivor Stanbrook, MP for Orpington (Conservative). Sir, Because it was tabled at a late stage, the significance of one of the Home Secretary's proposed amendments to the British Nationality Bill has not yet been fully appreciated. I believe it will be bitterly resented among British overseas.

The original Bill provides that such people, if not born in this country, will not have the right to pass on to their children that citizenship which has been their birthright and their ancestors' birthright through many centuries of British history. It also provides that immigrants to this country who become British citizens will also not have the right to pass on that citizenship to their children born abroad.

This way the balance struck in the Bill between the competing claims of immigrant Britons and those of indigenous Britons living abroad. Although it seemed unfair on Britons who have for generations served the country overseas, Conservative backbenchers were prepared to accept it. As Mr Whitelaw's Private Secretary said in a letter of February 2 to the Director of the United Kingdom Immigrants' Advisory Service (Mr John Ennals):

Zimbabwe press ownership

From Mr Colin Legum. Sir, At the time of the original announcement that Mr Robert Mugabe's Government was planning to reform Zimbabwe's press ownership there was considerable media criticism in this country, including from yourself. But since the official plans have been announced I have not seen a single comment, either for or against, in any national newspaper.

What must therefore remain in the minds of readers of the British press is the first impression they were given that the Zimbabwe Government had simply nibbled it. I submit that all of us concerned about defending press freedom where it exists, and enlarging it where it doesn't, should take some encouragement from what is proposed in Zimbabwe.

Instead of establishing a government-controlled press—so sadly the case in much of the Third World (not, of course, to mention the communist world)—the Zimbabwe authorities have transferred ownership to a Media Media Trust, modelled somewhat on the lines of the BBC, whose charter was studied by the Minister of Information. Dr Nathan Shamuyarira.

The appointed board of trustees

Youth and 'The Times'

From Mr John Duckworth. Sir, Many a Times reader must have felt a slight tremor of unwelcome anticipation when Mr Murdoch spoke last night (February 16) on *Panorama* of his intention to seek to attract "the younger reader" to your columns.

I trust he may be prevailed upon to limit such efforts to increasing the subsidy you have for many years afforded your student readers. While allegations formed from such exposure to your manifold excellences must often prove lasting to the point of entry under your "Deaths" column, they might be fragile when confronted with the young, in contrast to the seniors. What evidence have you that reading *The Times* comes upon one only in later life? Yours faithfully, JOHN DUCKWORTH, 296/302 High Holborn, WC1.

From Professor J. D. Lever. Sir, During the course of his interview on *Panorama* this evening (February 16), Mr Robert Murdoch declared his hope that *The Times* would in future be more attractive to a younger readership. I believe that the present devotees of *The Times* are persons of discrimination from many age groups who appreciate its incomparable journalistic standards.

Yours faithfully, J. D. LEVER, University College, Cardiff.

Opting out of the Canadian quarrel

From Professor Hedley Bull.

Sir, It is intolerable that both sides in the Canadian constitutional dispute should be seeking to make the United Kingdom Parliament the instrument of their purposes, thus ensuring that whoever they happen upon in this country whether it accedes to the request for "partition" on Ottawa's terms or not.

Here, as in so many other cases in the recent past, Britain's interests are only damaged by reluctance to break free of an historical involvement that has become purely fictitious. Parliament should disregard both Ottawa and the Provinces and take its place in divesting itself of all responsibility in relation to the future of the British-North America Act, thus throwing the problem back into the laps of the Canadians, where it belongs.

Yours sincerely, HEDLEY BULL, Montague Burton Professor of International Relations, Balliol College, Oxford, February 16.

Wembley decision

From Mr William Rodgers, MP for Teesside, Stockton (Labour).

Sir, Mr Ken Gill (February 18) makes the point perfectly. The argument over the electoral college is not about percentages but policy or, as I would prefer to put it, principle.

Mr Gill, who is both general secretary of AUEW (Technical and Supervisory Section)—not incidentally, of the engineering union as a whole—and a member of the executive committee of the Communist Party, claims that the Labour Party is essentially the property of the trade unions. In this way, he justifies the fact that communists, amongst others, will help to elect the Labour leader under an electoral college. He is quite frank about it. But does it really appeal to those of my colleagues in the House of Commons who have embraced an electoral college?

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM RODGERS, House of Commons, February 18.

All the Bill does is to equate citizens by naturalization or registration with citizens by descent instead of with citizens by birth. This is a serious blow to the principle of birthright, which is actually born here) nor unreasonable.

Four days later, to the surprise of almost everyone, Mr Whitelaw capitulated to the immigrants' lobby on this issue. His proposed amendment will give to an immigrant who takes our citizenship the right to pass on that privilege to his children even if they are born abroad and have no other connection with this country.

It is manifestly unjust that British people living abroad should not have the right which Mr Whitelaw now seeks to confer on immigrant Britons. In Western Europe today there are many British residents who in the spirit of the age live, work, marry and have children there. Most have homes in Britain. Those who happen to have been born on the other side of the Channel are now to be deprived of the right to pass on their precious nationality to their children. For "racial discrimination" is an apt description of what Mr Whitelaw wants to do. Yours faithfully, IVOR STANBROOK, House of Commons.

are representative of a wide section of the community, possibly as representative as the board of the BBC. They include the current (white) chairman of the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries: a widely respected Salisbury physician; the new Vice-Chancellor of the University; and Mrs Grace Todd, wife of Senator Garfield Todd, the former Prime Minister. Both the latter have close Zimbabwean connections and were associated in the past with Mr Joshua Nkomo.

Knowing Mrs Todd, I am confident that she would not for a moment have considered becoming a trustee without having completely satisfied herself of her independent role.

Of the five editors appointed one is Mr Willie Masurira, an executive member of Mr Nkomo's own party, not of Mr Mugabe's. Naturally, this system has its weaknesses and is open to abuse—as, indeed, is the BBC. But it does strike me as a step to be welcomed and encouraged in the rest of the Third World: perhaps Solidarity might borrow from it in their struggle to enlarge press freedom in Poland.

Yours etc, COLIN LEGUM, 15 Denbigh Gardens, Richmond, Surrey.

Pakistan and Iran

From the Ambassador of Pakistan. Sir, This refers to Mr Tony Alloway's dispatch from Tehran (Feb 4) about the recent visit of Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mr Agha Shahi, to the Iranian capital.

The fact is that during his Tehran visit Foreign Minister Agha Shahi did not condemn any country, nor did he make a request for a meeting with Imam Khomeini.

Mr Agha Shahi appealed to the Iranian leaders to receive a good-will delegation of eight heads of state and governments appointed by the recent Tashkent Islamic summit conference in pursuance of the Islamic world's desire that the Iran-Iraq war should end soon. Foreign Minister Agha Shahi emphasized that the Islamic countries wanted to find a just solution of the Iran-Iraq conflict in accordance with the principles of justice and international law, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-acquisition of territory by war and non-interference in the internal affairs of states and that they regarded any occupation of the lands of other countries as an illegal and denounceable act. The Iranian Prime Minister's response was that the delegation was welcome to come and see for itself the damage caused by the Iran-Iraq conflict and that Iran was the victim of aggression. Yours truly, ALI ARSHAD, Embassy of Pakistan, 35 Lonsdale Square SW1, February 17.

See that the leaders of the new Labour Solidarity Campaign seek to reverse the Wembley decision. But "reverse" involves a return to the previous practice whereby the leader of the Labour Party has been elected by Labour MPs. Is this really their united object? Or are they at one as a body or political party either to instigate or sanction such (racial) attacks (my italics), what Mr Bruns fails to mention is that there is plenty of evidence to suggest that supporters and members of the National Front are consistently involved in racial attacks.

Suspected racial attacks

From Mr Kent Barker. Sir, While a journalist should be cautious in reporting, especially of his own material, I must take issue with Andrew Bruns as he quotes me in his letter of February 15.

Although it is true to say "there is absolutely no evidence that the National Front as a body or political party either instigates or sanctions such (racial) attacks" (my italics), what Mr Bruns fails to mention is that there is plenty of evidence to suggest that supporters and members of the National Front are consistently involved in racial attacks. Furthermore in supporting his premise that such attacks are "further evidence that the multi-racial society has failed" Mr Bruns totally fails to consider how avowedly racist groups and organizations serve to promote such attacks by influencing the opinions of the young and impressionable. Sincerely, KENT BARKER, 14 Croome Hill, Greenwich, S.E.10, February 16.

Medical defensiveness

From Mr Gerald Robertson. Sir, Your leader "Medical defensiveness" (February 4) makes the bold statement that "in the last 10 years, a number of court cases in which doctors are accused of professional negligence has risen 10 times". This is certainly a view which many in the medical profession would have to believe, and it may well accord with the general public's impression as a result of increased publicity surrounding such cases. However, your statement purports to be one of fact, rather than merely a reflection of medical public opinion, and as such it could scarcely be further from the truth.

The annual statistics published in relation to legal aid proceedings (which account for almost all medical negligence cases) once they are adjusted to take account of variations in the method of analysis in recent years, demonstrate that medical negligence proceedings have not even doubled in the last 10 years, let alone "risen 10 times". Uninformed editorial comment such as this only serves to compound the dangerous myth that our courts are being swamped by a tidal wave of medical negligence claims. Yours faithfully, GERALD ROBERTSON, Faculty of Law, The University, Leicester, February 12.

Care of ancient buildings

From Lord Mersey. Sir, I share Mr Lloyd Webber's romantic attraction (February 16) to the overgrown state of Bayham Abbey. But it must be the case that the Department of the Environment's job is to preserve ancient buildings for future generations. And it is also the case that vegetation on a building is a parasite feeding on that building. Ivy, for instance, destroys mortar. The DoE's plan of "naked masonry" have often been described as ugly and sterile. But the alternative is monumental collapse. In 50 years' time Bayham Abbey could be no more than a pile of old stones. Yours faithfully, MERSEY, 1 Rosmead Road, W11, February 16.

Ideo discs

From Mr David Fisher. Sir, Dr Alex Comfort's disquiet (February 4) about the prospects of video discs would be easily assuaged if it were inevitable that the medium degraded its contents. However, the video disc is intrinsically malleable as print and can be produced and published exactly in accordance with an author's or a publisher's wishes. Dr Comfort or his publisher presumably control the rights of his sex-unselling book and so have the power to prevent tasteless or unwelcome elements from being reduced into a video adaptation.

Perhaps Dr Comfort's argument is ally only with his publisher? It is important to appreciate the significance of the video disc, like broadcast television or the cinema film, it is a publishing medium which can be treated as a book. Indeed, it could carry a sequence of still or moving pictures, or any combination of these. It is under a control of the user and publisher in exactly the same way as any other matter, apart from requiring an electronic device to play it. It is a new type of medium for the creation as well as dissemination



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 18: His Excellency Mr. Arambamorty, L. Moorthy was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the High Commission who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr. V. V. Arambamorty (Chief of Mission), Mr. S. R. Arambamorty (First Secretary), Mr. E. G. Dayananda (First Secretary), Mr. T. Dharmasena (Second Secretary), and Mr. S. B. Atugoda (Third Secretary).

Mrs. Moorthy had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Sir Michael Palliser (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was present, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Sir Richard Posen was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as Governor of Bermuda.

Lady Posen had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

The Queen held a Council at 12.40 o'clock on February 18. There were present: The Lord Soames (Lord President), The Lord Denham (Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms), The Lord Caccia (Lord Advocate), The Right Hon. Mark Carleton, MP (Secretary of State for Education and Science), The Right Hon. Thomas King, MP (Minister of State, Department of the Environment), and The Right Hon. Lord Lawson, MP (Financial Secretary, Treasury).

The Lord Denham, having been previously appointed a Privy Counsellor, was sworn in a member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

The Right Hon. Nigel Lawson, having been previously appointed a Privy Counsellor, made affirmation as a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Sir Neville Lings was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Lord Soames had an audience of The Queen before the Council.

Her Majesty this afternoon visited Young and Company's Brewery, Wandsworth High Street, SW18 to mark the Company's 150th Anniversary.

Having been received upon arrival by the Mayor of Wandsworth (Councillor M. D. Johnson) The Queen was escorted on a tour of the Brewery by the Chairman of the Company, Mr. John Young, and afterwards visited the Stables and Shire Horses.

Mrs. John Dugdale, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William Haseldine and Squadron Leader Adam Wike were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as an Honorary Life Member of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, presented The Prince Philip Award and Certificates of Merit at Buckingham Palace today.

His Royal Highness this evening addressed the All Party Conservation Committee of both Houses of Parliament at the Houses of Parliament.

Lord Rupert Nevill was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales this evening attended the Annual Dinner of The Queen's Rifle and Royal Air Force, Benson, Oxfordshire.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 18: The Duke of Gloucester was present at the opening of the opening by Orunfu Opoku Ware II, Asantehene, of the Asante Exhibition at The Museum of Mankind, London.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 18: The Duke of Kent today presented the Fellowship Awards in Manufacturing Management for the Engineering Industry Training Board at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington.

Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Buckley, RN, was in attendance.

Prince Andrew is 21 today.

The Duchess of Roxburghe gave birth to a son in Edinburgh yesterday.

Birthdays today

The Rev Dr. G. Henton Davies, 73; Lord Forbes, 63; Mr. John Freeman, 66; Mr. John G. Henton Davies, 66; Professor Bernard Meadows, 66; Sir John N. Nicholson, 70.

Memorial service

The Hon Mrs Hastings A memorial service for the Hon Mrs Hastings (the Hon Mrs Michael Joseph) was held yesterday at St Paul's Church, London. The Rev John Armstrong officiated and Mr Robin Dennison, Oxford University Press, led the prayers. Mr. B. Henton Davies read a poem by John Donne and Mr Max Hastings (stepson) gave an address.

Prince Andrew, who is 21 today, in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. He will spend the day flying at RNAS Culdrose.

Henry VIII coin fetches £13,000

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

The only known surviving example of one of the new coins introduced by Henry VIII in 1526 was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £13,000 to Baldwin.

It is a George Noble, of which two varieties were minted: a Flemish merchant's handbook of 1531 reproduces both for the information of fellow traders. No example of the type was known to numismatists until this coin appeared at Sotheby's.

It had been suggested that such a coin existed in an article published in 1963 by Dr. J. P. G. Kent. "A Lost Variety of the George Noble". Now its existence is confirmed. Sotheby's catalogue states that the coin was found in his possession for a number of years and suggests that it was

found near Felsted, Essex, before the last war.

The coin sale was very popular, as had been the case with Christie's sale the day before, with a total of £206,203 and 3 per cent unsold. It contained several rarities. A previously unrecorded board of the coinage of the Great Rebellion (1642-1649), apparently discovered in the Limerick area, realized £15,940. The top price was £2,800 (estimate £4,000-£5,000) for a great struck at the Inchequin mint.

Another curiosity was an untrimmed strip of eight Charles I Richmond farthings: they are clearly struck into the metal but they have not been cut round to turn them into individual coins. The price was £2,200 (estimate £1,500-£2,000). And there was an unnecessary preparation for emergency, a 2s 6d note printed in

1941 but never issued, which sold for £1,300 (estimate £800-£1,000).

Sotheby's also held a routine sale of Old Master paintings, although the catalogue described them as "fine". The total was £221,150, with 14 per cent unsold. The top price was £7,000 (estimate £1,000-£1,500), paid by a Spanish dealer, Iphigene, for a panel of "The Holy Family and an Angel", catalogued as by "Franco".

There were more minor sales of pictures at Christie's South Kensington underlined the strength of the bottom end of the market: a view of the Marine Grand, Capri, by Maurice Lewis, made £1,300 (estimate £400-£600) and the sale totalled £20,182, with 12 per cent unsold.

At Christie's in King Street, a sale of "fine jewels" totalled £127,870, with 18 per cent unsold.

Crafts centre and museum of film proposed

By Martin Huckerby

Developments planned by two artistic organizations were disclosed in evidence to a House of Commons select committee yesterday: a museum of the moving image and a national centre for the Crafts Council.

Giving evidence to the Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts, which is investigating funding of the arts, the Crafts Film Institute said it was seeking money for a museum of the moving image, which would be a central museum of film and television.

The Institute proposed an exhibition and changing displays of stills, posters and placards, with film and video screenings.

The Institute pointed out that the more traditional arts had built up substantial networks of

patronage and support, with research institutions and training schools, tuition in schools and wide representation in museums and libraries. As new cinema, film and television were "desperately under-represented".

The Crafts Council said its priority was the establishment of a national centre for crafts and design, with a focus for the finest craft work from Britain and abroad.

Although such a centre could not be established without extra funds, the council would be trying to raise £120,000 from the private sector for converting and fitting out a new gallery. It believed the existence of a proper national centre would enable the crafts to work in a more integrated way with the other arts.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. C. Beeching

and Miss P. M. H. Wastell

The engagement is announced between Simon Charles, younger son of Captain J. P. G. Kent, Royal Navy, and Miss Beeching, of Ashford, Surrey, and Patricia Marie Heloise, daughter of his Excellency the Liechtenstein Ambassador, Mr. Roger Hatzert, CMG, and Mme Hatzert.

Mr I. M. W. Boardman

and Miss K. P. Faulkner

The engagement is announced between Mr. I. M. W. Boardman, of Hursley, Hampshire, and Miss K. P. Faulkner, daughter of Mr. D. Newsom, of Uxbridge, Staffordshire.

Mr R. B. Thomas

and Miss J. W. Faulkner

The engagement is announced between Mr. R. B. Thomas, of Hongkong and Bermuda, and Miss J. W. Faulkner, daughter of Mr. D. Newsom, of Uxbridge, Staffordshire.

Mr P. J. Grover

and Miss J. A. Grollman

The engagement is announced between Philip John, of Downing College, Cambridge, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Grover, of Sydney, Australia, and Miss J. A. Grollman, of Hongkong and Bermuda.

Mr S. R. Lowy

and Miss V. A. Cooper

The engagement is announced between Steven Lowy, Juris Dr. BA, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Lowy, of Los Angeles, California, and Miss V. A. Cooper, BA (Hons), only daughter of Dr. Barrington Cooper and the late Mrs Fay Cooper, of Marylebone, London.

Mr R. J. A. Lepp

and Miss J. A. Bartlett

The engagement is announced between Richard John Alex, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Lepp, of Kingston, Surrey, and Miss J. A. Bartlett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Simms, of Bishop's Cleeve, Cheshire.

Mr G. W. W. Toye

and Miss P. F. T. Simms

The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. W. Toye, of Bordon, Hampshire, and Patricia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Simms, of Bishop's Cleeve, Cheshire.

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

The Deutsche mark under pressure, page 21

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Why 'grannies' may get younger after the Budget, page 21

- Stock markets**
FT Ind 489.3 up 3.8
3-mth Euro 5.17-17.1
DM 2.1865 down 12 pts
- Sterling**
\$2.2665 up 25 points
Index 102.2 down 0.3
- Dollar**
Index 100.2 down 1.0
DM 2.1865 down 12 pts
- Gold**
\$505.00 up 50 cents
- Money**
3-mth sterling 13.4-13.4
3-mth Euro 5.17-17.1
6-mth Euro 5.17-17.1

Rise in average earnings slows to less than 10pc in a year

By Frances Williams
Earnings are rising, on average, at less than 10 per cent a year, half the rate of increase of a few months ago. The Department of Employment figures published yesterday show that the rise in average earnings slowed in December for the fourth month running. Over the year the underlying increase was 18.5 per cent, down from 21.5 per cent in September.

But in the three months to December, the underlying rise in earnings averaged 0.75 per cent a month, equivalent to an annual rate of 9.5 per cent, half the rate of increase in the previous three months.

Official figures are backed up by the latest results from the Confederation of British Industry's pay database, also published yesterday. These show that two-thirds of more than 150 notified settlements in manufacturing industry in December and January were in single figures, with the average around between 8 and 9 per cent. This compares with an average of 16 per cent in July and more than 13 per cent in August.

The index of average earnings for December was distorted by large amounts of back pay for 500,000 local authority workers, who received a 13 per cent pay rise backdated to last July. As a result, the index rose sharply to stand 19.4 per cent higher than a year previously, compared with 18.9 in the year to November.

An underlying rate of increase in earnings of 9.5 per cent means that pay is now only just keeping pace with inflation and the increasing burden of income tax and national insurance contributions.

The rise in the price index, which combines the rise in retail prices and taxes on income rose at an annual rate of 9.4 per cent.

In the three months to December, the Retail Prices Index rose at an annual rate of 8.2 per cent over the same period. With only 10 per cent of the earnings index covered by the pay round before Christmas, the Department of Employment expects the annual increase in the index to start falling more rapidly as the "settlement season" gets underway. Relatively low pay settlements will then feed into the index at the same time as relatively high ones—such as the comparability awards for public service workers—drop out.

A further fall in overtime in December, down 0.4 million hours from November to 8.2 million hours a week, had less impact on earnings than lower pay settlements. Short-time working was unchanged at 7.4 million hours lost a week.

The CBI's survey—which covers 750,000 employees in manufacturing industry—found that the depressed state of the economy was the most important factor influencing low pay settlements, outweighing the pressure for rises to compensate for inflation.

Other evidence shows a large variation in recent pay settlements—down 5 to 15 per cent—depending on how badly companies have been hit by recession.

According to the February report from Incomes Data Services, most manufacturing settlements have been in single figures. But settlements in the oil industry and insurance, for example, are running closer to 15 per cent.

Nevertheless, the general trend in earnings so far suggests that the Government's forecast, made last November, for a 10 per cent rise in earnings in this pay round, remains on target.

Approval sought for £739m extra spending

By Melvyn Westlake
The Government yesterday sought Parliament's approval for an extra £739m cash for public expenditure programmes. The request for extra spending came in the Spring Supplementary Estimates.

In total, the new estimates amounted to £2,015m. However, £1,280m of this related to the transfer of BL shares from the National Enterprise Board to the Department of State for Industry. This is essentially a bookkeeping transaction and gives rise to no net charge on the Consolidated Fund or public expenditure.

The request for £739m arises from 55 separate supplementary estimates. But, with the exception of a £176m further provision for the Temporary Short Time Working Scheme, the additional public expenditure was included in the forecast of higher spending made by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, during his November mini-Budget.

He admitted that the volume of expenditure in 1980-1981 would be some 11 per cent higher than originally thought.

The Spring Supplementary Estimates are the third and last of the annual supplementaries. These three have added almost £4,500m to the original estimates for 1980-81, half before Parliament met in March (including the £1,280m involved in the transfer of BL shares). Thus the original estimates were £56,612m, and the year's total estimates come to £61,112m.

However, there is normally some underestimating of money voted by Parliament. In recent years this underestimating has amounted to about £1,000m.

Some £395m of the supplementary estimates sought yesterday were for items covered by cash limits. Defence spending accounted for by far the largest breach of cash limits. There were just four other small breaches, totalling just over £4m. The defence cash limit is now expected to be overspent by some £260m.

Tighter surveillance of BL spending

By Edward Townsend
The Government is tightening its hold on the running of BL. It is ordering the car group to seek formal Government approval for any project costing more than £25m and to submit monthly progress reports.

The arrangement will start at the end of March. The Government wanted to ensure that the company's spending was kept under close surveillance. The £25m limit on capital projects was being included in the £1,280m transfer of BL shares to the Department of State for Industry. This is essentially a bookkeeping transaction and gives rise to no net charge on the Consolidated Fund or public expenditure.

As hopes rose of a cut in inflation rates, so there would be "very substantial reductions" in interest rates.

Dr Wiedenbaum said: "We will expand the economy far more rapidly than has been historically possible, because of our supply-side approach."

The Americans hope that tax cuts and other incentives will boost the supply of goods and services and thus stimulate growth.

He said the new programme aimed to secure a 4.2 per cent real economic growth next year after a 1.1 per cent rise this year and that real gross national product would then increase by 5 per cent in 1983, 4.5 per cent in 1984, 4.2 per cent in 1985 and 4.2 per cent in 1986.

The rate of consumer price increases would decline next year to 8.3 per cent from 11.1 per cent this year, then fall to 6.2 per cent in 1983, 5.5 per cent in 1984, 4.7 per cent in 1985 and 4.2 per cent in 1986.

Mr Reagan's programme specifically calls for tight

yesterday that BL would be subject to a memorandum of understanding which would oblige the company to submit reports giving financial details. BL would be treated like the British Steel Corporation and the Post Office.

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"We would prefer to leave the BL board to make decisions on whether, what and when to sell any of the assets; these decisions are at the centre of management strategy."

During the second reading of the Industry Bill it was announced that £2,900m (and ultimately £3,250m) was earmarked for BL. This included the £1,280m transfer of BL shares but also covered the company's external financing from private sources and was intended to cover BL's total funding for the next five years.

The company's latest corporate plan calls for a further tranche of £150m from public funds in 1983 and 1984 but this is yet to be approved.

Sir Keith told the committee yesterday that the Government hoped BL would be able to raise finance from depreciation, profits, the private sector and through collaboration deals with other companies. But there were grounds for scepticism and BL was operating in "an immensely tough market."

Asked to justify the £990m aid, which will be given to BL in the form of new equity, Sir Keith said that while the Government was impressed by the success of the Mini-Metro, it was "appalled" at the cost to the taxpayer. However, productivity had improved and industrial relations were far better than in the past.

European trade warning to Japan

A European delegation has warned Japan to restrain its exports to western Europe, or face the consequences.

The time for discussion has ended, urgent decisions are needed to restrain Japanese exports to Europe, Sir Fred Warner, the former British ambassador to Japan, said in Tokyo.

Sir Fred led a 17-member delegation during two days of talks in Japan.

Without urgent action, western European public opinion would demand strong measures to safeguard its industries, he said.

Japan would have to decide whether to open up its markets to EEC imports as well as to restrict exports to Europe.

Meanwhile, Japan is seeking assurances from the Community that its import monitoring system will still allow Japanese goods to flow freely into Western Europe.

Dollar loses ground against mark

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent
The Deutsche mark regained further ground against the dollar yesterday as speculation rose that the Federal Reserve Bank would announce a rise in official West German interest rates today.

At the close, the dollar was down a further 1.2 pence at DM 2.1865, having rallied from an early fall to around DM 2.1550.

If the Germans raise their Lombard rate, at present 9 per cent, some other countries, within the European Monetary System may follow suit in a general attempt to narrow the differential between interest rates in Europe and those in the United States.

The one major exception to such a trend would be the United Kingdom, where official interest rates are expected to come down in next month's Budget—though a minority market view still feels that a reduction could come before then.

As a result enough sterling was available for sale against some continental currencies yesterday, though it recovered from a low of DM 4.91 to show a net fall of only 11 pence against the German currency at DM 4.96.

Against the dollar, sterling gained 0.5 pence to \$2.2665, briefly rising above the \$2.28 level.

In domestic financial markets the "make-up" day for the February banking month passed without problems. There was a moderate surplus of funds moving from the Exchange to the markets and short-term interest rates were not upset.

Gilt-edged stocks were quietly firm with rises of up to 25p at the long end of the market. The government broker was able to sell a small amount of Treasury 12 per cent 1986 at £20 1/16.

Banks refuse to raise 8.5pc clerical pay offer

By David Felton
Labour Reporter
The prospect of industrial action in banks was raised yesterday after employers refused to increase their 8.5 per cent pay offer to 200,000 clerical workers.

The TUC-affiliated Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu), which represents about 70,000 staff, said negotiations had broken down and there would be no further meetings unless the employers indicated that further money was available.

Its leaders will now get the views of members on whether there is support for industrial action, and will consider in the next few weeks whether to hold a ballot for the membership for industrial action, which is necessary under union rules.

The Clearing Bank Union, the other main union in the industry, which has about 50,000 members, met employers in separate talks and expressed anger at the "denigrating" manner in which their arguments for an improvement in the offer had been treated.

The CBU, which was formed by the amalgamation of the staff associations at Barclays, National Westminster and Lloyds banks, has a moderate membership, but Mr Jack Britz, the general secretary, said last night that he was sure there would be calls for industrial action from some members.

Unlike Bifu, the Confederation of British Industry is expecting to have further talks with the employers early next month.

Both unions apparently argued that the banks could afford to meet their respective claims in full. The CBU is seeking a cost of living increase,

while Bifu submitted a 20 per cent claim linked to other improvements in conditions and fringe benefits.

Mr Britz said that if the offer was accepted, bank employees would see their standards of living eroded.

In an unusual display of agreement with the CBU, Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of Bifu said: "The attitude of the employers is Edwardian, bordering on the Victorian. They seem quite oblivious to the fact that under the offer the living standards of their staff would be considerably reduced."

Mr Mills expected that the clearing banks would be making dividend increases to shareholders running into double figures as a result of the profits they have made this year.

"It would be quite monstrous for shareholders to receive a double figure increase while staff are being kept to this level," he said.

The unions argued that in view of substantial increases won by workers in other sections of the finance industry, particularly insurance, where staff were running at between 11 and 14 per cent, their members should receive similar increases.

The Federation of London Clearing Bank Employers said last night that its negotiators had reiterated the wish for a single figure settlement and "it had heard nothing at this stage to make it change its offer of 8.5 per cent."

Under the offer, the starting salary for grade 1 employees, the lowest in the industry, would rise from £2,958 to £3,209, and the salary of a senior cashier would go up from £4,952 to £5,373.

Mac Gregor pledge on 'unfair' steel prices

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, will personally investigate any allegations of unfair pricing by the corporation that could endanger the future of private steel companies.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Minister of State for Industry, announced this pledge in the Commons last night during the second reading debate of the Iron and Steel (Borrowing Powers) Bill, as he struggled to reassure anxious Conservative MPs concerned that the huge sums of government money being provided for the corporation could force private companies either to shut down or to declare redundancies because of unfair practices by the public sector.

Closure threat: Shop stewards at Firth Brown, the Sheffield steel and engineering company, yesterday vowed to fight the decision to dismiss 1,250 workers, about one third of the labour force.

A meeting of 120 shop stewards decided by a small majority to reject the company's plan, announced earlier this week.

Mr Jack Hingworth, chairman of the stewards' committee, said: "We intend to fight the company over the proposed redundancies. At this stage it

means work sharing, redeployment and further short-time working in an attempt to save the jobs of our members."

Further talks are planned with company executives, but the shop stewards' committee will organize a meeting of 4,300 workers if those talks fail to make progress.

The company blamed falling orders, rising energy costs, increased rates and the strong pound for the decision to shed the jobs.

Companies threatened: Further subsidies to the British Steel Corporation could destroy the independent sector of the steel industry, Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of the Institute of Directors last night (Peter Hill writes).

In a statement issued as the Commons debated the Government's Bill which will raise the BSC's borrowing ceiling to £5,000m, Mr Goldsmith said that subsidizing private companies which were being forced out of business by unfair taxpayer-financed competition from the BSC was no solution to the industry's problems.

"It will be a disaster if the taxpayer ended up by supporting both the public and private sectors of the industry in a battle royal of subsidised competition. It would amount to back door nationalization by a Conservative government," he said.

Metal Box to shed 700 jobs

By David Hewson
Metal Box, Britain's largest metal container maker, is to make 700 workers redundant at 10 of its general line division factories. The company is already committed to a further 4,000 redundancies in other divisions.

It said that while the economic recession, the strength of sterling and higher interest rates had influenced the decision, the loss of jobs was necessary to improve the competitive position of the division by reducing overheads.

The division produces a variety of metal containers for the cosmetic, pharmaceutical, household products, food and confectionery and other industries.

The factories affected are at Aintree; Carlisle; Mansfield; Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire; four in London and two in Hull. The redundancies will reduce the size of the general line division to 6,500 employees.

Workers at the Lucas Girling brakes factory at Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside, voted by five to three to accept the closure of the plant, which will shed 700 jobs.

Kraft Foods is to make 370 redundant over the next three years.

"With some companies such as ICI paying out £35m in rates currently, we are talking about very large numbers indeed," Mr Rigby said.

Expressed as a proportion of industry gross profits, rates have increased from about 9.5 per cent in 1973 to about 35.5 per cent now, on CBI calculations. This is because rates increases have been greater than inflation over the past year while company profits have slumped.

One retailer member of the CBI Council said that rates were now such an important overhead charge at about 3 per cent of sales value, that the effect was starting to be felt in high street prices. The alternative was squeezed margins and closed premises.

Mr Rigby said that if all local councils followed the Government's spending guidelines, the average increases in the rate poundage would be very small indeed—about 0.2 per cent.

Twenty-four out of 39 shire counties which benefited from the change the block grant system were expecting to levy average increases of 8 per cent government guidelines, whereas if they followed the government guidelines decreases could have been expected.

"We are deeply worried by forecasts of increases of more than 50 per cent in some areas."

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Ind 15p to 278p Broken Hill 10p to 680p Julfield 35p to 85p Julfield 14p to 85p Julfield 25p to 85p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank 21p to 131p Bank 5p to 125p Bank 7p to 63p Bank 10p to 66p Bank 11p to 110p

Bank	Bank
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia 5 Austria 36.70 Belgium 84.00 Canada 2.79 Denmark 15.75 Finland 9.75 France 11.75 Germany 11.75 Italy 11.75 Japan 11.75 South Africa 2.79 Spain 2.79 Sweden 15.75 Switzerland 9.75 Yugoslavia 2.79 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank 21p to 131p Bank 5p to 125p Bank 7p to 63p Bank 10p to 66p Bank 11p to 110p

£2m advertising campaign to promote 800 cheaper fast selling lines

The high street discounting "war" looks set to reach a new pitch as the result of a meeting, hosted by Woolworth, yesterday. The company hired Wembley Conference Centre for 1,200 suppliers, stockbrokers and media people to hear about a year-long price-cutting campaign.

And though Woolworth executives played down suggestions that its "Operation Crackdown", starting tomorrow, will not have the same impact as when Tesco switched to a discounting policy after dropping trading stamps, with 1,000 stores and 15 million customers weekly, Woolworth is bound to stimulate fresh moves from competitors.

The 1,000 suppliers were warned yesterday by Mr David Collier, director of sales and advertising, that Woolworth buyers would expect manufacturers to share the discount cost. Woolworth expects their cooperation in return for extra production.

The other "carrot" is that the £2m cost of the television and advertising campaign for Woolworth's participating suppliers usually cover about half the cost. This time, the suppliers' share will be just over 30 per cent.

The price cuts in the first three months will be in lines in Woolworth and Woolco stores, mainly on fast-sellers and covering goods like confectionery, cosmetics, furniture, fashion, lighting, lawnmowers, toys and hi-fi. The cuts range from less than 10 per cent to nearly 50 per cent.

The company is being coy about the extent of discounting related to turnover, but there is some indication of the impact from the number of lines held in Woolworth stores, about 12,000 in the average store but probably double that in the largest. Around 2,000 lines are already heavily discounted.

Mr Geoffrey Rodgers, Woolworth's chairman, said: "We have already cut our costs to

aggressive price-cutting campaign."

Woolworth is beefing up its marketing campaign, instead of relying too much on the final quarter of the year, when the company traditionally does well in the run-up to Christmas.

Its results collapsed in the second quarter of last year and recovered in the third. December saw sales up 12.5 per cent against an estimated inflation in their goods sector of about 9 per cent. There was real growth of 3 per cent or more, according to Mr Collier.

The Woolworth management still feels there is some room for the discounting operation to be extended to more lines.

There must be a limit, nevertheless. In the nine months to October the company's pre-tax profits last year fell to £7.1m from £23.2m, with sales only marginally up in value.

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aggressive price-cutting campaign."

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DAEJAN HOLDINGS LIMITED		
INTERIM STATEMENT		
Unaudited Results for the Half Year ended 30th September, 1980		
	6 months to 30.9.80 £'000	6 months to 30.9.79 £'000
Rental Income and Charges		
Receivable, less Property	2,834	2,468
Outgoings	2,480	3,279
Surplus on Sales of Properties	71	146
Other Income	5,385	5,893
Financing Charges and Other Expenses	3,440	2,963
Group Profit before Taxation	1,945	2,930
Less Taxation	750	1,050
Less Minority Interests	9	8
Earnings per share	£1.186	£1.872
	7.28p	11.49p

Included in Rental Income is an amount of £366,000 relating to the previous financial year in respect of a retrospective rent review agreed in the current year. An interim dividend of 1.225p per share (1979-1.225p) will be paid on 20th March, 1981, to shareholders registered on 20th February, 1981.

Subject to unforeseen circumstances, it is expected that profits before tax for the year to 31st March, 1981, will be in the region of £3.5 million.

Pension rights deal

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Dalgety reaps takeover benefits

Dalgety's balance sheet may still bear the scars of the £70m takeover and subsequent integration of Spillers but at least the acquisition is beginning to justify itself in profit terms. Interim results from Dalgety show pretax profits up just £500,000 at £16.2m and, although reorganization fudges the Spillers contribution, it is clear that without it trading figures would have fallen.

Most significant impact has come in milling which has increased its contribution four-fold to £4.4m, aided by good grain harvests, price increases and increased demand. But the foods division has also been boosted £3.5m to £8m helped by improvements in pet foods and a return to profit in the United States Modern Maid subsidiary, whose previous drag on Spillers provided the opportunity for the Dalgety bid. Meanwhile, Dalgety's traditional activities have fared worse with malting profits halved to £2.1m and agricultural returns slipping £1m to £10.8m, and the chemicals activities suffering badly.

Outside milling, economic conditions do not hold out much for a significant recovery this time. But Dalgety is sufficiently confident about the traditionally stronger second half to maintain the dividend at 15.7p gross where it is not covered by historic earnings. This was good enough for

in the profitable Portlinton heating division and the home and garden equipment side which together raised trading profits by 56 per cent to £5.8m last year and must be worth more than the group taken as a whole.

But whether Birmid makes profits this year—and it will not in the first half—depends on foundries. Iron casting capacity has been halved since 1977 but there is still spare capacity and without some recovery in demand further cutbacks may be necessary. The difficulty of predicting, and indeed the depth of, the recession, are best illustrated by the fact that a year ago Birmid was honestly expecting a year of consolidation in foundries after extensive rationalization. In the event, the foundries slipped from a £5.1m trading profit to losses of £1.4m. So unless there are firm signs of a pick-up in demand the shares will stay friendless at 21½p.

BOC International Anxious moments

BOC has made a strong start to the year with first-quarter pretax profits 18 per cent ahead at £14.6m well up to expectations. But the group now seems to be taking a distinctly less sanguine view of the rest of the year than the substantial improvement envisaged in the annual report and profits will do well to get back to 1979's £72.7m.

There has been an all-round improvement in the opening three months with South Africa and Australia living up to their great potential. The Airco business in the United States has also been buoyant with trading profits just over a tenth higher at £8.9m as gases, welding and medical have all done better offsetting a strike-bound graphite side. In the United Kingdom rationalization and other cost reductions have helped protect margins in industrial gases against some volume declines.

But the group is now worrying about the patchy recovery of the United States economy with much of its earlier strength evaporating at the end of December and there could be further redundancy costs during the year at home. Still, despite the rise in interest charges, there have been no major changes in the balance sheet and though it is flattered by BOC's replacement cost accounting methods, gearing is comfortable enough to discount worries about a tight issue.

Up 2p to 120p on the results, the shares are back to their 1980-81 "high" and their new-found popularity owes much to the market's appreciation of the strong current cost dividend cover—GCA profits are actually slightly higher than BOC's modified historical figures—and now that the extra depreciation charges as assets are revalued onto a replacement cost basis are a thing of the past the benefits of this conservative accounting will show through at the bottom line.

● Woolworth's price-cutting programme sent shudders through the whole retail sector yesterday, but first impressions are that the market could still be taking the news too complacently in the light of the damage Tesco wreaked in the food retailing business three years ago.

Besides the scale of the cuts, the most important point is that Woolworth's about 1,000 stores covering just about every shopping centre of consequence, which means that few non-food shops will avoid the impact and that retailers in general face a tough 1981. It will be even tougher if Woolworth is allowed to grab a growing share of a stagnant market.

Boots, British Home Stores, Asda and Tesco could be the main victims. The last two have problems in non-food lines already. Tesco, incidentally, launched "Operation Checkout" in June, 1977, and that proved to be the time to sell supermarket shares, with an attempted rally scotched a few months later when Sainsbury counter attacked with its own discounts.

Investors are then, likely to remain wary of Woolworth's "Operation Crack Down" despite the optimistic noises it made at yesterday's press conference about Christmas trade, and with the sector as a whole still yielding under 5 per cent and selling at 11 times earnings, prices look set to fall further across the board.

Economic notebook

The Deutsche mark under pressure

That the influential German Institute for Economic Research—DIW—has added its voice to those urging temporary withdrawal of the Deutsche mark from the European Monetary System, indicates the disquiet felt in West Germany about the country's short-term economic prospects. In fact, conditions would almost certainly have to get much worse before such a course of action could be contemplated by the Bonn government.

After all, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, with President Giscard d'Estaing of France, is moving spirit behind the formation of the EMS in 1979. Indeed, in the eyes of many people, the EMS and the similar (if less sophisticated) arrangements that preceded it, looked like little more than the formalization of what, was, in fact, the wider market zone.

A European Monetary System without the mark would be like playing chess without any kings. The case for the mark's withdrawal from the EMS is that this would permit German interest rates to be cut and thereby contain the recession and the unemployment.

According to the German Institute for Economic Research, the policy of keeping interest rates high in order to bolster the mark has not done much to prevent imported inflation anyway.

Certainly, the outlook for German business is worse now than was predicted a few months back. Industrial production has been declining since the second quarter of 1980 and economic growth in 1980 was much less than half that for 1979 (about 1.8 per cent compared with 4.6 per cent). In 1981, gross national product is forecast by Phillips and Drew to decline by some 0.8 per cent. Inflation, also, worsened last year reaching 5.6 per cent compared with only 4 per cent in 1979.

In addition the current account deficit has soared. It may prove to have been not just a matter of 1980-81 (€5,750m) in 1980—or nearly twice the original forecast—whereas, until 1978, the country had been piling up ever larger surpluses. Another sizable deficit is expected this year.

The large deficit has not, however, been matched with equanimity by the German authorities.

Claw back

This has not prevented the mark becoming one of the most resilient currencies in recent months. At the beginning of this week, it stood at its lowest level against the dollar for well over three years having become weak as much as a quarter less against the American currency when it was in the autumn of 1979 when it was then the dollar that was under severe pressure.

Over the same period, the mark also dropped about 5 per cent against a basket of currencies. Within the European Monetary System, it has fallen to its lowest permitted level, at the opposite extreme to the French franc, which has been at its highest permitted level.

Only in the last 48 hours has the American currency clawed back some of its large losses.

None of the prevailing theories adequately explain, in any case, just why the mark has been simultaneously weak against the dollar, sterling and the French franc. If the level of exchange rates were essentially determined by differences in nations' inflation levels, as used to be widely thought, then the mark would have been extremely strong in past months rather than weak.

The increase in German prices last year was on average rather less than half that for other industrial countries. French and American inflation levels were both above the average. Britain's was higher still.

But what is also true is that

Germany has had rather lower interest rates than those other countries. This, though, has historically been the case. Interest rate differentials are, to some extent, a reflection of differences in inflation rates between countries. High inflation in any country increases the risk that its currency will depreciate against others. High interest rates are, therefore, often necessary to prevent large sums of money going abroad.

However, interest rates in America have also been driven up by domestic monetary policies, which they have in Britain, with the result that the differential between interest rates in New York and Frankfurt is now so large that it is viewed as more than adequate to cover any risk of dollar depreciation.

Deficit

Such an explanation would not account for the weakness of the mark against the French franc. The interest rate differential between Paris and Frankfurt has been rather less recently than on many past occasions. Neither is the fact that Germany has a large current account deficit enough in itself to explain recent exchange rate movements.

At present, then, had a small surplus on its current account last year, but the French experienced a deficit which was not much less than the German one if measured as a percentage of their respective gross national products.

Another theory suggests that it is the relative tightness or laxity of monetary policy in different countries that determines how their currencies move.

Monetary policy has been tight in most countries. In Germany, France and the United States, money supply has grown by less than the increase in their respective money national incomes.

Among the big industrial countries, Britain had one of the least restrictive monetary policies (if the growth in money supply is compared with that elsewhere after allowing for respective increases in money national incomes). Yet, sterling has been one of the stronger currencies.

All of this does, of course, leave out the question of energy and other "confidence" factors like political stability. Germany is thought to be particularly vulnerable to any further increase in the oil price or disruption of energy supplies. The anti-nuclear energy lobby in Germany have prevented a rapid expansion of nuclear generating capacity. The upheaval in Poland is also seen as a threat to future gas supplies from Siberia.

The sensitive geographical position of Germany means that it is, anyway, the source of concern when there is trouble in Eastern Europe. Today, there is added disquiet about what is thought to be the governing coalition's lack of political will.

By contrast, France has established close relations with the Arab countries and successfully negotiated a number of trade and energy deals with them.

For America, it is clear that the "Reagan Factor" is tending to work like the "Thatcher Factor" in generating confidence in these countries' economic policies. The currency markets like promises of financial discipline and cuts in government spending and borrowing. This, together with high interest rates and current account surpluses, probably accounts for much of the recent strength of the dollar and sterling.

But, if Congress prevents many of the spending cuts from going through and federal borrowing continues to rise, as seems likely, there may not be a level of interest rates—no matter how high—that will prevent the dollar reversing all the gains of 1980.

Melvin Westlake

Why 'grannies' may get younger after the Budget

Personal savings must play a bigger role in meeting the public sector borrowing requirement. Margaret Stone reports

As the countdown to the Budget begins in earnest, the debate about the funding potential of National Savings is becoming more intense. The Government, which is making efforts to take the pressure off the gilt market, has already made it an article of faith that the personal savings sector should play an increasing role in meeting the public sector borrowing requirement.

The questions are to what extent can the Government mobilize the savings of the man in the street and what is the price it will have to pay? Central to these forward-looking questions is the historical one: how successful has the Government's National Savings package announced last autumn been?

In September significant improvements were made in the Department of National Savings' repertoire of index-linked savings schemes. A new issue of grannys bonds, the index-linked National Savings certificates, was announced with both a new maximum investment of £3,000 (against £1,200 for the earlier edition) and a minimum age limit of 60 for both men and women. And the index-linked Save-As-You-Earn scheme maximum monthly investment was to be raised from £20 to £50.

Flanking the new grannys bonds were the extensions in the upper limits for both the conventional nineteenth issue of National Savings certificates from £1,500 to £5,000 and the grannys bonds, which have suffered from the declining inflation rate, the absence of a bonus and neutral, if not adverse comment from the press.

This is almost certainly bound to force the Chancellor's hand in the Budget if he is to be certain that National Savings will meet his next target—a further £3,000m net intake to some £18,400m.

For declining interest rates will not only strip out some of the inflationary benefits of grannys bonds but must also reduce the impact of both the Investment Account (IAC) of the National Savings Bank and the nineteenth issue of savings certificates.

At the moment the Government is paying well over the odds for this money. The IAC account pays 15 per cent gross and the nineteenth issue 14.7 per cent compared with 11.5 per cent for clearing bank deposits and 13.25 per cent on a building society share account.

In "normal" conditions, the IAC rate would have been reduced by now and the nineteenth issue withdrawn. It seems unlikely that these present returns will survive another cut in minimum lending rate. With more market-related yields, the pulling power of both the National Savings Bank and the next issue of conventional savings certificates will probably wane.

This in turn will tighten the screws further. Of the £1,200m net addition to National Savings at the end of December, 1980, no less than £595m represented accrued interest (£233m from the Investment Account). So, once interest rates are cut there will be little left here for the Government to make up.

Although the cumulative effect of the new £50 a month

ceiling for SAYE schemes, which begins in April, will be substantial, its initial impact will not be great. Nor are premium bonds packing the same punch as they once did. Without a big new prize to draw in, punters' net sales of premium bonds are expected to tumble forward around the current rate of £41m a year.

There is no secret what the answer to the National Savings puzzle will be. The Treasury has already hinted that it will consider bringing down the age limit for grannys bonds. But will it be 55 or 50 years of age?

Whichever, this relaxation in the age limit brings grannys bonds within the reach of men and women in the Indian summer of their professional lives is likely to have a much more significant impact on savers than last autumn's changes.

Taxpayers, many of them in the higher brackets, will be able to inflation-proof up to £6,000 of their joint savings in a tax-free investment which carries no charges or front-end loading (when total charges over the use of the savings scheme are all deducted at the outset). It is more likely to be a winner for them than for present savers who are conscious both of the five-year commitment (although it is not binding) and absence of income.

Pleas of discrimination, and unfair competition from the building societies in particular are likely to fall on deaf ears. The Government apparently believes that building societies already cream off too much personal savings and is in no mood to put their interests before those of the Treasury.

On the other hand, building societies could be more vulnerable to grannys bonds for the 50 to 60 age group than they apparently are to the present scheme. Although net receipts dropped sharply to £285m in November (when the second issue went on sale), they have since recovered to £448m in December and £446m in January.

Although the main thrust of the Chancellor's Budget plan for National Savings is bound to be grannys bond changes, including possibly a clearer indication of whether a bonus will be paid at the end of five years, new developments should not be ruled out.

Part of that £3,000m extra money from National Savings could come from oil bonds. The talks between the Treasury and British National Oil Corporation about how the small saver can participate in the benefits of North Sea oil are not complete, but the bonds could be on sale in post offices before the end of the year.

Another candidate under review which might appear in the Budget is a National Savings interest-bearing security, a noticeable gap in the NS repertoire since the British Savings Bonds were axed a couple of years ago.

With or without these products, there does not seem too much doubt that National Savings will reach its desired target of £18,400m total savings by the end of March 1982. Grannys bonds may not be an outright winner at the moment, but it is a tap to be turned on at any time by subsequent alterations in the age and size limits.

Although the cumulative effect of the new £50 a month



Mr David Donne, chairman of Dalgety.

he market which lifted the shares 6p to 80p, where assuming a maintained final dividend of 11.2 per cent provides a sound case for holding on for better times.

Profits could work out close to £40m against £33.4m for the full year to provide fully-taxed p/e of over 10, while any significant fall in interest rates could relieve pressure from interest charges which rose 2.4p to £14.3m. Total debt still stands at £27m to represent four-fifths of shareholders funds but this is £18m below the previous interim level and Dalgety has made significant inroads into short-term borrowings which now stand at £97m compared with more than £123m at this time last year.

Irmd Qualcast Cutbacks continue

Irmd Qualcast's full-year figures provide vivid evidence of what happens to a company serving yesterday's industries, when decline is compounded by recession. With slumps down by nearly a third in the iron and steel industry, Irmd has had to retrench further incurring £10.2m of extraordinary closure and redundancy provisions of which £6m will be cash out as opposed to book losses.

Before counting extraordinary and after stating the previous figures accordingly, retax profits fell from £6.4m to £225,000 for nearly tripled interest charges of 1.6m. After writing off £3.4m advance corporation tax, passing the final dividend including closure costs there was a £3.7m loss compared with retentions of £1,000.

Even before paying out most of the cash costs, net debt nearly doubled to most £25m. But Irmd went into the recession with a strong balance sheet and as a net worth of about £56m—before including an estimated £13m extra on property values—and there is still some cash to be released from asset sales and stock reductions. There is also consolation

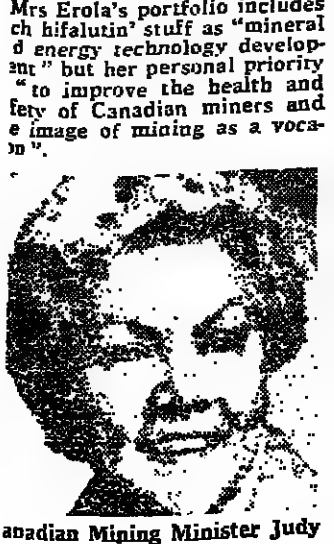
Business Diary: Punch-prop and Judy • Bandits aloft

avid Howell, the Energy Secretary, is no pin-up with 'Itain's' miners at the moment: not so with his opposite number in Canada, who seems to have been chosen by Premier Pierre Trudeau just because she—yes, she—would fit along with the dominion's miners.

Judy Erola (below) is Canada's Minister of State for Mines, and her femininity and vacuity which make her a good ambassador to this vital Canadian industry are more important than her links with mining.

She comes of Finnish stock in Sudbury, northern Ontario, the world's most important nickel-smelting town, and both her grandfather and a husband once worked down a mine.

Mrs Erola's portfolio includes chafalutin' stuff as 'mineral energy technology development' but her personal priority is to improve the health and safety of Canadian miners and a image of mining as a voca-



Canadian Mining Minister Judy Erola.

Having, like everybody else on this occasional publication, received my cards in the mail, I was not too surprised to get a third lot yesterday.

This time, however, the cards came in a box rather than in an envelope, for they are a new version (top right) of my present calling card (bottom right).

The cards were sent as a surprise present by Peter Royle, a director of the London printers W. R. Royle.

In an article I wrote last month Royle described my present card—the standard Times issue—as "terrible". So too, since that article, has reader R. F. Bond of Wolverhampton.

Too modest to send me his own card, Bond none the less described my present card as "an exposition in miniature of the Big Bang theory"—all items of essential information other than my name wanting to get as far away from me as possible.

Now I find that there have been half a dozen or more replacement Times cards designed for me but during the Thomson ownership of the paper nobody could decide which it was to be.

● Curses, Singapore Airlines is to introduce seven one-armed bandits on its B-747s from this June if a two months in-flight survey "on the merits of in-flight entertainment" proves positive.

The silent machines will be battery-operated and partitioned off from the passenger cabin in the rear of the economy-class section. Initially two seats will be installed on the trans-Pacific routes but beware, they may spread later to the London route.

Max Cole, Singapore Airlines spokesman in London says: "We have the world exclusive rights to these machines and no other airline will be able to have them." So there is still hope yet that they may not spread.

● An inauspicious early public appearance for Pat Lowry in his new role as chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Lowry, the former personnel director of BL, has just taken over at Acas following the retirement of Jim Morrison, and was to have been the lead speaker at a conference in London next week entitled "Redundancy: the crisis of the 80's".

But now the organizers, Croser Publications, have cancelled the conference because of "an unacceptable low response".

Conferences manager, R. J. Ware says: "Our subscribers clearly regard redundancy as a negative issue."

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THE TIMES

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THE TIMES

● One of the bastions of middle class Belgian life is under attack. The recommended retail price for bread is being undercut by a third by GB, the country's biggest supermarket chain.

For years the bread price in Belgium has been sacrosanct. An impressive lobby of independent bakers, backed by the Ministry of the Middle Classes and the bulk of solid bourgeois opinion, has maintained the price at a hefty 34.50 francs or 43p for the standard 800 gramme loaf. As a result, thousands of small bakers have prospered in a country that has become a model for de-industrialization and rising unemployment.

But this idyll of petty bourgeois endeavour may now become a thing of the past. The independent bakers are already speaking of a bread price "war" while the supermarket chain is reporting that sales are rising every day with demand outstripping supply.

Sociologists think that GB's success with its low price bread is a clear indicator of the depth of the recession in Belgium. But the well heeled middle classes in Brussels are concerned that there could be a sharp drop in the number of cake shops in the capital.

Out of place: reader P. C. J. Nair writes from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to say that the remnants of the old regime in Penang the adjoining signboards of a tailor and a drycleaner. The former said Wee Kian Fatt, and the latter Soh Kian Wee.

Ross Davies

First Quarter's Results

BOC International Ltd.

	Three months to 31 December	
	(£ million)	(£ million)
	1980	1979
Sales	303.5	289.9
Trading profit	29.5	25.3
Less interest	14.9	12.9
Profit before tax	14.6	12.4
Less tax	6.5	5.3
Profit after tax	8.1	7.1
Less minority interests	2.3	1.6
Earnings	5.8	5.5
Earnings per share (net basis)	1.77p	1.69p

● On a Current Cost Accounting basis Profit Before Tax was £14.9 million (CCA figure for the comparable quarter of 1979 was £12.4 million).

For full text, including condensed balance sheet at 31 December, 1980, write or phone Investor Relations Dept, BOC International Ltd, Hammersmith House, London W6 9DX. Telephone: 01-748 2020.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Selective buying prolongs rally in equities

Selective buying helped equities to maintain their technical rally yesterday despite the escalation of the miners' strike. Dealers remained optimistic that a solution could be found and were also encouraged by news that the talks with the Government had been brought forward. So, after a cautious start, prices pushed ahead on selective buying of second liners in a thin market. Sentiment was also helped by the first quarter figures from BOC International, at the upper end of most expectations, with the shares rising 2p to 120p, after 122p.

However, confidence took a knock when news that F. W. Woolworth was about to cut prices by up to 50 per cent in order to reduce stocks sent a shock wave through the stores sector. Dealers reported panic selling of most of the leading stores with Woolworth shares dipping 3p to 54p.

Business after hours recovered slightly, but investors adopted a cautious attitude ahead of President Reagan's first budget. Oil shares suffered a slight reaction after a firm start with jobbers well aware of the consequences should his speech be as controversial as forecast in some quarters.

Details of the speech are expected to play an important part when dealings resume in London today.

The FT index, which had been as high as 5.9 at 11 am, closed with a rise of 3.8 on the day at 489.3.

Investors again returned to the government securities market yesterday ahead of any announcement of a cut in the MLR later today and reports that inflation should bottom out by the spring. Buyers pushed prices higher in generally thin trade and the government broker was able to activate some of the new tap Treasury 12 per cent 1986 at £20 1/16.

In long prices advanced by as much as £1 in places while £3 earlier rises of around £3 finally gave way to profit taking and the list closed with gains of up to £1/16.

Leading industrials made good headway after a slow start but closed off the top. Metal Box rose 10p to 190p ahead of news about further redundancies. Fisons also recovered after recent weakness, climbing 8p to 138p, in a thin market, as Distillers added 3p to 190p despite earlier reports that distillers were running at only 50 per cent of capacity. Elsewhere, Lucas Industries, hard 5p to 168p on news of its solar energy venture with BP.

Note the call option activity in Turner & Newall. The shares closed last night at 73p and now have just 3p off the low for the year. Observers say that full-year profits, due on March 11, will be better than expected.

Smaller improvements were seen in ICI at 294p, Reckitt at 180p, Unilever at 455p and GKN at 149p, all 2p to 3p better.

The announcement of sharply lower prices cast a cloud over the stores sector with dealers fearing a new round of price wars. Heavy selling was reported first thing but prices appeared steadier at the close.

Among the more badly affected was Boots, 3p lower at 242p, while Marks & Spencer on 121p and GUS "A" on 480p reverted to unchanged after earlier falls. Speculative buying lifted Barker & Dobson 3p higher at 16p.

In foods Dalgety's impressive first half performance was rewarded with a 6p rise to 280p with Reckitt & Colman still making the most of the cheaper pound up 4p at 196p. British Sugar held firm at 268p after announcing the loss of 750 jobs earlier in the week, but J. Sainsbury lost another 5p to 346p after an adverse broker's circular. Transhouse Forte gained 2p to 152p on the back of the annual report.

Denbyware, where Minister Assets holds 15 per cent, least 14p to 86p on news of the 80p cash offer from Crown House, 2p stronger at 59p. Meanwhile, in engineering F. Pratt dipped 5p to 110p as hopes of a full

scale bid from Bardsey, up 3p to 26p, faded. BPC retreated 2p to 131p after adverse comment about the rescue operation planned by Pergamon Press. But favourable comment lifted Mingsworth Morris 2p to 16p and Lister 2p to 43p while Viaton, up 8p to a new high of 206p, and Geers Gross, up 5p at 71p, continued to make the most of recent recommendations.

Speculative attention lifted Conder International 10p to 118p, in a thin market. Futura Holdings 4p to 45p. Sangers 8p to 42p, Retardant Smith "A" 5p to 152p, and Hawthorn Leslie 6p to 148p, with Manchester Ship Canal rallying 8p to 153p after recent weakness over predicted losses.

Sumrie advanced 2p to 42p as Mr Harvey Michael Ross increased his stake to 10.1 per cent and FMA Holdings expanded 4p to 31p on its disposals and sale and leaseback details. G.M. Firth improved 7p to 67p ahead of figures and planned layoffs and Sidlaw Industries rose 3p to 121p after the chairman's bullish remarks. But shares of Change Wares were suspended at 51p pending capital restructuring.

Bosny & Hauckes, the music publishers with a new chief executive, is thought to be on a recovery tack. But some fairly heavy buying over the last couple of days, sending the price to a new "high" of 140p, suggests there is something more in the wind. The Board says: "We can't understand it."

Wedgwood's third quarter figures were judged acceptable and the shares advanced 4p to 39p with Eleco adding 1p to 61p for a similar reason. However, Birminghams' full year loss and omitted dividend left the shares 1p lower at 211p while Securicor and Security Services both shed 5p to 183p after disappointing statements.

Oils encountered nervous offerings towards the close in expectation of President Reagan's speech. BP slipped 2p to 390p along with Shell at 388p as Ultramar dipped 5p to 458p and Lomas 7p to 632p. Among second liners Berkeley Exploration was wanted at 238p by NCC Energy eased 5p to 99p on its United States acquisition.

Rubbers encountered a new wave of speculative buying. London Sumatra leapt 15p to 375p on hopes of an improved offer. Castelfield rose 35p to 510p. Malaysia 12p to 175p, and Malakoff 6p to 125p. Assam Trading "B" was again wanted on reflection of its property interests, rising 7p to 69p.

Equity turnover on February 17 was £104.618m (16,451 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Grand Met, Boots, Associated Dairies, GEC, GUS "A", W. R. Kemp, Shell, Acrow, ICI, Metal Box, Plessey, Reckitt & Colman and BAT.

Traded options: Dealers reported the quietest day in months as total contracts fell to only 290 of which Grand Met attracted 17.

Traditional options saw call made in Inverock on 4p. Burmah on 16p and Charterhall on 9p.

Securicor 14 pc ahead but shares lose some ground

By Rosemary Unsworth

Securicor Group managed to maintain the profits improvement of the first half through the end of the year, despite the impact of the recession on some parts of its business.

Pretax profits rose by 14 per cent from £6.9m to £7.9m in the year ending September 29, 1980, but turnover advanced by 23 per cent from £142m to £174m. Security Services, which is 52 per cent owned by the group, showed a 16 per cent increase in pretax profits to £5.2m while its turnover rose by 21 per cent to £164m.

But the group slightly disappointed the stock market by raising its total dividend by a bare 10 per cent from 2.1p gross to 2.3p, with the final up from 1.45p to 1.58p. The "A" ordinary shares dipped 5p to 183p on the news.

Mr Peter Smith, chairman of Securicor Group, said that Securicor's international division, which operates through 16 separate companies, had shown the greatest increase in profits. It grew from £97,000 to £13m, outpacing any other single part of the group. Exchange translation lost the group more than £200,000.

The traditional industrial security side and parcel service, which together account for two-thirds of group profits, showed a 9 per cent increase from £3.6m to £3.9m in the United Kingdom. Finance investments and insurance rose from £1.6m to £2m, reflecting the continuing fall in the cost of insurance.

Security Services, which has a frequency of criminal attacks on the cash-carrying business. There was also growth in the alarm side of the operation, which contributed about £200,000, while the recession left its mark on the static guard



Mr Peter Smith, chairman of Securicor Group.

operations as companies made economies.

The property and hotel side showed a decline from £705,000 to £588,000, as the problems common to the rest of the motor trade affected the Ford dealership. But body building improved its contribution to the division.

Mr Smith added that the industrial security operation had also absorbed development costs on the new freight service, which was performing roughly in line with expectations. The difficulties in the parcels side, apparent during the first half, had been eradicated by improved market share.

The group reached the year end with a £3m improvement in its cash balance, bringing them to £13m. But the board was cautious about the current year saying that it hoped for a reasonable increase bearing in mind the economic climate, although it remained poised to make further acquisitions.

Interest rates will squeezing Wedgwood

By Peter Wainwright

Wedgwood, the fine bone china group founded in 1759, pleasantly surprised the stock market yesterday with its figures for the 39 weeks to December 27. Sales rose by 12 per cent to £78.2m, closing a fall in volume terms, but profits, before interest and tax, just held their ground at £5m against £4.6m in the same weeks the year before.

By contrast, operating profits in the 26 weeks to September 27 last came out at £3.2m, against £3.58m. But dear money is still hurting the group.

Interest charges rose from £1.7m to £2.4m, so that pretax profits in the 39 weeks fell from £4.55m to £3.62m, which compares with the £5.81m made over the full year to March 29, 1980. Tax fell from £1.1m to £853,000, so that net profits finished £620,000 lower at £2.77m. Extraordinary items, however, absorbed £692,000, reflecting adjustments in the value of net current assets and borrowings due to variations in exchange rates and losses from the sale of Galway Crystal, totalling £556,000.

The upshot was that earnings per share slipped only from 5.1g to 4.4p. As known, the interim dividend was halved to 2.25p, but the better trend in third quarter profits led some observers to hope for a maintained final dividend of 3.46p.

Wedgwood has been punished hard by the strong pound and dear money. Three fifths of its china is exported and half of that goes to North America. The recent strength of the dollar against the pound came too late to benefit the latest figures which show that the group is now starting to benefit from streamlining. Natural wastage, and a few redundancies have taken the world-wide labour force down from 11,250 in 1979 to 10,180 in 1980, and the group's stock levels and borrowings, which have fallen, it has also been busy opening up markets in Japan, the Middle East, Singapore and Germany.

The cost-cutting programme is being intensified and, depending on the Budget, there may be several hundred more redundancies. Demand, Sir Arthur Bryan, chairman, reports, held up well despite recent price increases. But he complains that profit margins cannot be maintained in the face of strong overseas competitors.

Silvermines buys Marathon stake

Silvermines, the Dublin-based mining and energy investment company, has agreed to buy a 24.7 per cent interest in the royalty of the producing part of the Marathon concession area off the south coast of Ireland, for £2.55m. It sold 7.16 per cent stake in Aras Energy for £2.48m yesterday.

Silvermines still owns 10.2 per cent of Aras and intends to remain its largest single shareholder. Mr Ted Russell is chairman of both companies, which also share two more directors.

Silvermines will pay \$578m to Cambridge Royalty of Houston, Texas, for the 24.7 per cent stake in the Marathon Royalty concession's producing area, the Kinsale Head gas field, and for half of Cambridge Royalty's share of the royalty on the non-producing acreage.

De Beers reduces offerings

De Beers is reducing the number of stones on offer at its current sight, according to diamond traders in London. The reduction is estimated at around 20 per cent.

The reduction occurs against the background of a generally depressed diamond market. Low retail sales of jewelry have caused high diamond stocks in the cutting centres.

But a spokesman for the Diamond Trading Company, a London selling organization closely associated with De Beers, said yesterday: "We are doing no more than carrying out the traditional policy in time of recession."

The spokesman added: "We're not recession proof. All we can do is hang on until demand returns." He confirmed that this week's sight is smaller than recent ones. A sight is an offering by De Beers to diamond traders of uncut stones. There are 10 sights a year in London.

De Beers stresses, however, that sight prices have not been cut. In the normal way, dealers can

Briefly

Greenbank Trust: Revenue 1980 £41,400 (23,000 after tax of £18,388). EPS 5.18p (4.9p). NAV per share 111p (102p). In view of proposed bid by Malton Financial Services decision on dividend being deferred until new board has taken control.

Rue Estates Holdings: Turnover for year to June 30 £11.22m (£1.28m). EPS 7.4p (13.0p). Dividend 1.45p gross (6.42p). Freeman Investment Trust: Dividend for 1980 £2.20 gross (15.35p). Pretax revenue £1.21m (1.1m). EPS 13.38p (11.11p). Comparisons exclude special dividend received from Shell of £2.006 gross and special dividend of 1.05p paid in distribution. NAV per share 307.1p (251.4p). Free scrip issue one-for-one.

Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust: Dividend for 1980, 4.21p gross. Pretax income £25,500 of net cost £25,000 and 5.75p (3.25p). NAV per share 160p (123.9p) and at market value £160 (123.9p). Proposed "free scrip" issue of one-for-one.

Weir Group: Proposed early repayment of the outstanding £395,500 of 10 per cent secured loan of 9 per cent secured loan stock 1988/93, both at par. £395,500 of 10 per cent secured loan of 9 per cent secured loan stock 1988/93, both at par. £395,500 of 10 per cent secured loan of 9 per cent secured loan stock 1988/93, both at par.

London and Lamond Investment Trust: Pretax revenue £11.5m (£1.28m). EPS 7.4p (13.0p). Dividend 1.45p gross (6.42p). NAV per share 160p (123.9p) and at market value £160 (123.9p). Proposed "free scrip" issue of one-for-one.

Eleco Holdings: Revenue 1980 £1.28m (£1.28m). EPS 7.4p (13.0p). Dividend 1.45p gross (6.42p). NAV per share 160p (123.9p) and at market value £160 (123.9p). Proposed "free scrip" issue of one-for-one.

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Morsina raises stake in Pennine

By Our Financial Staff
Pennine Commercial Holdings, the former motor dealer aggressively expanding into property, announced yesterday that Morsina, an offshoot of the private Isle of Man-based Savings and Investment Bank, has bought a further 2.75m shares, taking its holdings to 16.4 per cent.

Two months ago Morsina sold about 3m shares as part of the settlement of Pennine's purchase of a chain of 11 petrol stations in the North West and Yorkshire for £600,000. At that time Morsina retained 2.5m shares.

It is understood that Morsina's latest stake has come from Post Dye, an Isle of Man registered concern made up of two trusts. Last July, Post Dye let it be known that it was holding on to its shares—in total, nearly a third of Pennine—which it received after the motor group bought an Accrington Housing Estate. Meanwhile, Pennine has issued its shareholders' circular for the purchase from Penwin Developments of an industrial estate and houses in Greater Manchester and a number of residential development sites.

Denbyware board likely to resist £3.4m offer from Crown House

By Rosemary Unsworth
Denbyware, the stoneware and pottery manufacturer, has received the long-rumoured bid from Crown House, its biggest shareholder.

Crown, which holds 29.9 per cent, has offered 80p cash for the remaining shares, valuing the group at £3.4m. Denbyware's price immediately rose 8p to 86p on the news.

However, another big shareholder, Minister Assets, of which Denbyware's chairman, Mr George Robinson is a director, immediately bought a further 150,000 shares at 80 7/32p, raising its stake from 11.85p to 15.34 per cent.

Another Denbyware director, Mr N. D. Wood, his family and associates, account for a further 25 per cent of the equity. Later the price went to 88p and closed at 86p, 14p better. Denbyware's board is holding a meeting this morning to discuss its reaction to the offer but it was clear yesterday that it would be extremely unlikely to accept it at present levels. In the meantime, shareholders were instructed to take no action.

Mr A. Barker, Denbyware's managing director, said that he had not heard of Minister's increased holding until after the shares had been purchased.



Mr George Robinson (left), chairman of Denbyware, and Mr Patrick Edge-Partridge, chairman of Crown House.

He said that although trading had been hard recently and margins had been sacrificed, with borrowings at around 90 per cent of shareholders' funds, the group was still working a full week.

Mr Barker said that although the board had always been aware that a 29.9 per cent holding might eventually result in a takeover offer, Denbyware had been surprised by Crown House's bid, which would go unconditional if the 50 per cent level is reached.



He also said that net assets a share, which were still being calculated precisely, were in excess of 100p a share.

Crown House's financial advisers, Greesham Trust, said that Denbyware would fit in well with the group's glassware operation, particularly for marketing. Denbyware's International Ceramics which last year contributed £350,000 to the £604,000 pretax result, was not the main interest as it was a 50 per cent associate.

£1m Change Wares cash injection

By Philip Robinson

Change Wares, the troubled wares maker and steel stockholder, called a halt to share dealings yesterday and announced that it was considering proposals for a capital reconstruction and an injection of fresh cash.

It is understood that the group is negotiating a scheme under which institutions and individuals, including directors, would subscribe for 10m new ordinary shares at par raising about £1m.

A spokesman for Change Wares' advisers, Samuel Montagu said: "We are still negotiating, but because of the sensitivity of the share price we thought it best to suspend the shares. We are not in a position to give further details, but a wider picture will emerge when the circular to shareholders is sent out, hopefully in a few weeks."

At the suspension price of 6p, Change Wares has a stock market capitalisation of just over £1m.

Change Wares, which went public in 1970, hit a profits peak in 1974 of £478,000 but plunged into losses of £665,000 by 1977. In June of that year Mr Geoffrey Rose joined the group and was chairman until January last year when he and five other directors resigned in what was described as an amicable parting. In 1979 group losses were a record £1m.

Mr Rose was replaced by Mr Harold Chaffers. Last October he told shareholders at the annual meeting that trading continued to be difficult and it was pointless to encourage the belief that the company would earn a profit in that year.

High Swiss rates

Four of the big Swiss banks have raised their interest rates on customer time deposits with maturities from three to 12 months to six per cent from 5.5 per cent.

Net profits up \$30m at Motorola

Motorola, the American electronics and appliances group, has reported net profits of \$186.1m (£82.3m) for 1980, up sharply from \$154.3m the year before. Sales rose to \$3,100m from \$2,700m.

Fourth quarter net profits jumped to \$49.1m from \$36.3m on sales of \$803m against \$762.8m.

Net profits of Whirlpool, the Michigan-based home appliance manufacturer, slipped to \$101.7m (£45m) in 1980, down from \$110.9m the year before despite a sharp improvement in the fourth quarter. Sales for the year were down fractionally at \$2,240m.

Net profits in the fourth quarter jumped to \$34.3m from \$25.8m in 1979, on sales of \$553m, against \$519m.

For the latest quarter the company also reported net earnings of \$304m and other income of \$10.9m. A year ago net earnings from affiliated companies was \$3.5m and other income was \$1.2m.

For the year, income from affiliated companies fell to \$12m from \$17.7m, but other income soared to \$29.2m from \$15.2m.

The CY Tung Group said in Hongkong it had bought Dodwell and Co's 49 per cent interest in Seapac Container Service for an undisclosed sum, to make Seapac a wholly-owned subsidiary.

In December, the CY Tung and Incheague groups jointly purchased 74 per cent of Pacific Seapac, Seapac's original name, from Seacair Lines of the United States.

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Evered still backs Francis bid

Mr John Field, vice-chairman of loss-making engineering group Evered, has again urged shareholders to accept a 22p a share offer from Francis Industries, following firm rejection of the bid by di Arabian shareholders a 29.96 per cent stake. The offer closes on February 24 and Francis is expected to announce by that it will not be raised. Mr Field said it is becoming difficult to predict any rise in demand and would a shareholders and employees best if Evered became of Francis.

Mr Saudi, Mr Yeslam Ladin, is thought to head set SA—the Swiss company, which recently disclosed 7 per cent stake in Evered. ever, the Takeover Panel no evidence of a concert giving rise to a bid under 34 of the Takeover Code. Shares stood at 23 1/2 p on Friday.

Dividend raised
Epicure Holdings is still doing ahead after achieving record results in 1979-80. The half-year to December 31st, pretax profits rose from £100,000 to £123,000 on turnover of £3.99m to £5.45m. Mr R. J. Brealey, the chairman, tells shareholders because of acquisitions and sales last year, the results

are not wholly comparable with the previous year. Net tangible assets attributable to shareholders have continued to rise and the board confirmed its confidence in the outcome of the current year's trading by lifting the interim dividend from 0.57p to 0.71p gross. Epicure covers hotels, construction industry services, property investment and financial services.

Ashley Industrial optimistic
Having completed its reorganization, the board of Ashley Industrial Trust thinks that the group is likely to achieve increased turnover in the remaining subsidiaries during the financial year to April 30. The directors feel justified in approving the payment of an interim dividend of 1.5p per share, to shareholders and in recommending a final dividend of 2.0p making a total of 3.5p for the year. The chairman hopes that in the course of the year to April 1982 an opportunity to expand the group by another acquisition will arise.

US Debenture Corp revenue up for year
United States Debenture Corporation reports a gross revenue for the year to January 31 of £6,480m, against £5,587m. This was struck before deducting debenture interest of £101,000, the same as last year, and loan stock interest of £20,000 against £22,000. The profit attributable to ordinary shareholders was

£3.9m, compared with £3.28m. Earnings per share rose from 4.81p to 5.75p. The net asset value per share was 133.6p against 113.9p. The gross dividend was held at 7.99p.

Interim profits dip at Eleco Holdings
Pretax profits of Eleco Holdings, the St Albans electrical engineering and construction group, slipped to £773,000 in the six months to December 31 against £810,000 the year before. Turnover was slightly ahead at £10.4m, against £9.9m. The interim dividend is being maintained at 1.43p gross. Mr Frank Webster, chairman, said that profits had held up well in difficult conditions. However, owing to the deepening of the recession, particularly in the construction industry, it is unlikely that the profits in the second six months will reach those reported in the first half, he said.

Martin Newsagent pushes sales up 13pc
Mr J. B. H. Martin, chairman of Martin the Newsagent told the annual meeting that retail sales, exclusive of VAT, for the first 19 weeks of the year to February 8, 1981, were £40.85m, an increase of 13 per cent over sales for the same period last year. With regard to expansion he said: "We expect to open 12 new sites, and redevelop six existing branches during our financial year to September 27. These will add some 48,000 sq ft to our retail trading area. Our policy of diversifying branches which become uneconomic will continue".

Business appointments
Chairman named Hampton old mining
Mr Wakehurst has been named as director and chief executive of Hampton Gold Mining after the resignation of Mr Ley. K. P. Robinson has become managing director of Marconi Automation Systems in succession to Mr T. May, who leaves the company to take up another electronics industry. Nigel Jackson has been made general director of Farm Feed stores. Brian Jarman is now a director of the Medical Sickness and Life Assurance. John Lamb has become managing and representative of Western Bank's opened representative office in London, based in Stock-

Pick and shovel give way to computer age

I regretfully have to report that the old-time prospector is dead. That colourful figure of a thousand gold rushes and minor movie parts is to be replaced by a computer programme. Now any geologist who happens to have a computer terminal and a telephone about his person can run up an almost instant assessment of his find's potential, using only basic information. The new service is called "Explore" and is offered by Tymshare, an American computer services company. Tymshare is a publicly-quoted company in America with a 1980 turnover of about £240m (£106m). Its British subsidiary, Tymshare UK, is 33 per cent owned by Unilever Computer Services, a subsidiary of the huge food and trading group. Tymshare's program does not really replace the prospector. What it does replace is his judgment at that critical moment when he—or more likely these days a company—has a find but needs to evaluate its potential before deciding whether to proceed. It is a tool for prefeasibility study giving a broad picture of the deposit's characteristics.

Explore provides this assessment by evaluating the deposit from four points of view: the mining method, capital and operating costs, minimum reserves and cash flow. In doing so it offers the geologist and his head office two features unique to mining evaluation programmes: a data base of costs, which is revised every six months, and the opportunity to work backwards from a desired rate of return, grade or deposit size to the mine characteristics required to meet those objectives.

The trick is that it enables geologists to think financially with only minimal information about their deposit and the company's financial goals. In computer jargon it is "friendly" and "interactive": to you and me, it speaks English and gives direct and immediate answers. One great advantage, as seen by possible customers, is that an exploration manager and his head office can acquire quickly and simultaneously the same information and conclusions. Apart from giving answers on mining methods (for example, open pit or underground), operating and capital costs based on American figures, and the return either desired or obtained, Explore also provides cash flow analyses along normal lines.

The latter service is secondary to the main purpose which, Tymshare stresses, is prefeasibility analysis. More elaborate financial services are offered by other companies, but in any case are better suited to a later stage of project development. The exploration manager who plugs in his terminal from any

of 30 countries (excluding South Africa at present) is automatically taken through a series of questions, to which he need provide only simple answers: grade estimated from drillings, deposit size and more subjective answers to questions about the location of the site of rock strength.

One advantage of the system—which also saves money—is that the user can skip parts, substitute his own information—for example on costs—and

Mining

run the programme over several days. But it is here that the two chief objections arise.

Since launching the system in this country and America at the beginning of the year, Tymshare has obviously tried to sell it to mining companies. Mr Andrew Shaw-Hamilton, manager of Tymshare United Kingdom's energy division, claims that the service is much cheaper than equivalents. A full program run would cost between £1,500 and £5,000 and take less than a day. Similar work by a consultant would cost up to £15,000 and need two months. The subscription to Tymshare is £50 a month.

But possible users point out that costs can rise sharply if the program is used frequently, and especially if it is overridden. Big mining companies could find developing their own programs cheaper. Nevertheless, smaller companies, without such internal capability, could prefer to use Explore.

All companies must consider, however, whether the data base and other assumptions are adequate to their needs. Costs are drawn from 50 American mines and updated twice a year in current rather than inflation-adjusted prices. An instance of the other assumptions, of which there must necessarily be many, is that a deposit with more than 300 feet of overburden is most likely to be exploited underground.

Yet it is still early days to judge the merits and unavoidable common sense assumptions built in to the program. One early opinion might be that the quality of information reflects the type of decision required: What should we find and is the project worth pursuing?

These are the questions over which every prospector has agonized since mining began. When the next mining boom gets under way, the well-equipped prospector will be packing a computer terminal alongside his pick and shovel.

Michael Prest
Mining Correspondent

Bank Base Rates

Bank of England—14%
Bank of Ireland—14%
Bank of Scotland—14%
Bank of Wales—14%
Bank of Cyprus—14%
Bank of Greece—14%
Bank of Italy—14%
Bank of France—14%
Bank of Germany—14%
Bank of Japan—14%
Bank of Canada—14%
Bank of Australia—14%
Bank of New Zealand—14%
Bank of South Africa—14%
Bank of India—14%
Bank of Pakistan—14%
Bank of Bangladesh—14%
Bank of Sri Lanka—14%
Bank of Ceylon—14%
Bank of Malaya—14%
Bank of Singapore—14%
Bank of Hong Kong—14%
Bank of Taiwan—14%
Bank of Korea—14%
Bank of Thailand—14%
Bank of Philippines—14%
Bank of Indonesia—14%
Bank of Malaysia—14%
Bank of Brunei—14%
Bank of Sarawak—14%
Bank of Sabah—14%
Bank of Brunei Darussalam—14%
Bank of East Timor—14%
Bank of Timor-Leste—14%
Bank of Cambodia—14%
Bank of Laos—14%
Bank of Vietnam—14%
Bank of Myanmar—14%
Bank of Cambodia—14%
Bank of Laos—14%
Bank of Vietnam—14%
Bank of Myanmar—14%

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The Over-the-Counter Market

Company	Price	Ch'ge	Divid	Yld %	P:E
29 Airsprung Group	64	—	6.7	10.5	5.8
21 Armitage & Rhodes	43	+1	1.4	3.3	17.7
921 Bardon Hill	190	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
88 Deborah Services	95	+1	5.5	5.8	4.7
58 Frank Horsell	106	—	6.4	6.0	3.3
51 Frederick Parker	52	+1	11.0	21.2	2.4
74 George Blair	74	—	3.1	4.2	—
39 Jackson Group	108	+2	6.9	6.4	4.1
103 James Burrough	120	—	7.9	6.6	9.8
244 Robert Jenkins	330	—	31.3	9.5	—
50 Scruttons "A"	217	—	15.1	7.0	4.2
215 Torday Limited	217	—	15.1	7.0	4.2
10 Twinlock Ord	112	—	—	—	—
69 Twinlock 15% ULS	72	—	15.0	20.8	—
35 Unilock Holdings	39	—	3.0	7.7	6.0
81 Walter Alexander	103	—	5.7	5.5	5.7
181 W. S. Yeates	262	—	12.1	4.6	4.3

AVERAGE EARNINGS

Index	Jan 1978	Change over 12 months	Change over 3 months
1979	162.1	19.2	22.4
Nov	164.5	19.7	20.5
Dec	164.5	19.7	20.5
1980	164.5	19.7	20.5
Jan	164.5	19.7	20.5
Feb	164.5	19.7	20.5
Mar	164.5	19.7	20.5
Apr	164.5	19.7	20.5
May	164.5	19.7	20.5
Jun	164.5	19.7	20.5
Jul	164.5	19.7	20.5
Aug	164.5	19.7	20.5
Sep	164.5	19.7	20.5
Oct	164.5	19.7	20.5
Nov	164.5	19.7	20.5
Dec	164.5	19.7	20.5

Information for Siemens shareholders

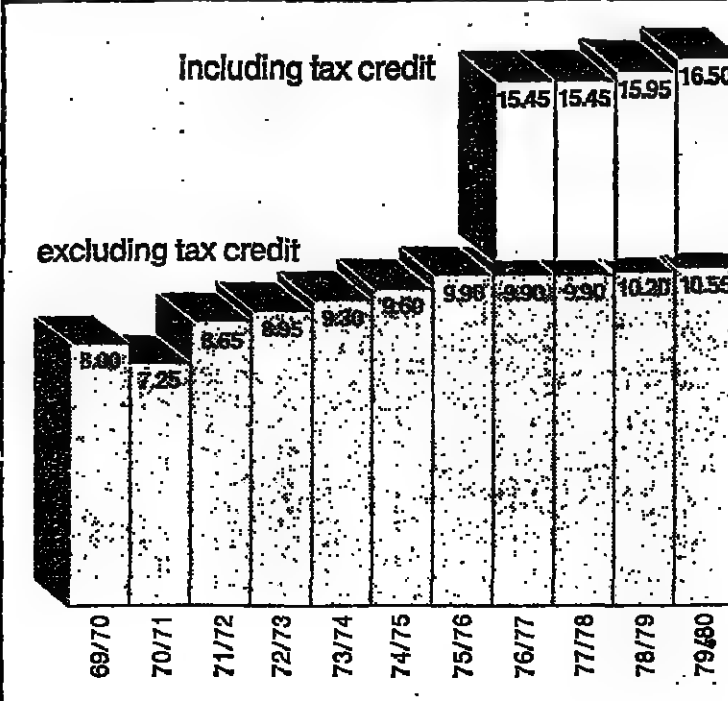
Siemens prepares for slower growth

While new orders and sales increased during the first quarter of the current 1980/81 financial year, from 1st October to 31st December 1980, growth rates were below levels recorded for the comparable period a year ago. In view of the weakening world economy, we foresee an even further slowdown over the remainder of the year.

New orders, which rose 12% worldwide for a total of £1,952m during the first three months of the current financial year, grew at a slower pace than last year when they increased 15% during the first quarter. With new orders valued at £922m, a gain of 9% vs. 20% last year, domestic business showed a clearly diminishing rate of improvement; international business on the other hand bettered last year's 10% growth, increasing 16% for a total of £1,030m for the period under review. While long-term major projects and systems business proved a good source of orders, electronic components and standard products, which are more sensitive to changes of economic climate, began showing signs of weakness. Among the orders of larger magnitude received from overseas customers were contracts for power generation and distribution systems for Saudi Arabia, five generators for the Taqarac and Rosana hydroelectric power plants in Brazil, and local telephone cable networks for Egypt and Nigeria. In addition, the Medical Engineering Group was awarded several orders for computer tomograph units, while Kraftwerk Union received a commission to supply Spain with a 350-MW steam turbine set for its La Robla II power plant.

In £m	1/10/79 to 31/12/79	1/10/80 to 31/12/80	Change
New orders	1,741	1,952	+12%
Domestic business	849	922	+8%
International business	892	1,030	+16%
Sales	1,525	1,666	+9%
Domestic business	685	785	+15%
International business	840	881	+5%

Sales grew 9% for a total of £1,666m, a gain well below the 16% mark set during the first quarter of last year. Domestic business, with sales of £785m, brought a 15% increase, while international sales reached £881m, a 5% rise. The Medical Engineering Group and the Data and Information Systems Group showed the largest rates of growth. Inventory rose 7% for a total of £3,343m.



The total number of employees remained essentially unchanged during the first quarter of the current financial year. In the Federal Republic of Germany there was a loss of approximately 2,000 due to the scheduled departure of temporary student labour and normal fluctuation; abroad, there was a gain of about the same number owing to the incorporation into our statistics of personnel in the employ of companies acquired the previous year. Although the average number of employees was up only 3% over the first quarter figure for last year, employment cost was 12% higher, totalling £798m.

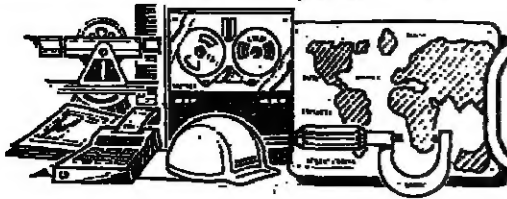
In thousands	30/9/80	31/12/80	Change
Employees	344	344	0%
Domestic operations	235	233	-1%
International operations	109	111	+2%

While spending for property, plant and equipment was 10% higher than for the same period last year, there were no major acquisitions during the first quarter. Thus, at £82m, total capital expenditure and investment was 6% less than the comparable figure for the preceding year.

In £m	1/10/79 to 31/12/79	1/10/80 to 31/12/80	Change
Capital expenditure and investment	87	82	-6%
Net income after taxes	35	30	-14%
In % of sales	2.3	1.8	-22%

The net margin—net income as a percentage of sales—was lower this year than last, namely 1.8% as compared with 2.3%, since the rising costs of wages and salaries, raw materials, purchases of semifinished and finished products, and external services could not be passed on to customers in the form of corresponding price increases. This was particularly true of international business where competition is becoming steadily greater.

All amounts translated at Frankfurt middle rate on 31st December 1980: £1 = DM 4.678.



Recruitment Opportunities



Engineers Overseas Appointments Accountancy Finance Sales Overseas Appointments Accountancy Finance Sales Marketing General Computing Management & Executive Appointments

THE TECHNICAL CHANGE CENTRE

CHAIRMAN: SIR MICHAEL SWANN FRs

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

The Technical Change Centre was established in 1980 with the support of the Leverhulme Trust, the Science Research Council and the Social Science Research Council to develop a major programme of research on the technical change and its impact on the economy. The programme will include assessment of the technical change and its impact on the economy, the problems of research and development, the problems of training and the problems of the labour market. The programme will also include assessment of the technical change and its impact on the economy, the problems of research and development, the problems of training and the problems of the labour market. The programme will also include assessment of the technical change and its impact on the economy, the problems of research and development, the problems of training and the problems of the labour market.

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A national firm of Chartered Accountants, with a record for remarkable and continuing growth, has an exceptional vacancy for an established tax specialist. Their tax departments have a considerable reputation and provide research and planning services covering all aspects of corporate and personal tax. The intention is to develop both the national and the international sides of their work and they wish to appoint someone to a leading position with this in mind. Candidates should be able to demonstrate high achievement and must possess the personal qualities to enable them to contribute to the growth of the firm. It is recognised that the person they seek probably already holds a senior position and our clients have set no limits to the remuneration package to be negotiated. An otherwise successful applicant, who does not possess a chartered accountancy qualification, would be accorded appropriate status at the highest possible level. For further information please contact: Sir Timothy Hoare, Career Plan Ltd., "Chichester House, Chichester Road, off Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1EG. Tel: 01-442 5775.

Career plan

LIMITED

PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS

THE TECHNICAL CHANGE CENTRE

CHAIRMAN: SIR MICHAEL SWANN FRs

SECRETARY TO THE CENTRE

Technical Change Centre was established in 1980 as a Company limited by guarantee and a Registered Charity to develop a major programme of research on the technical change and its impact on the economy. The programme will include assessment of the technical change and its impact on the economy, the problems of research and development, the problems of training and the problems of the labour market. The programme will also include assessment of the technical change and its impact on the economy, the problems of research and development, the problems of training and the problems of the labour market. The programme will also include assessment of the technical change and its impact on the economy, the problems of research and development, the problems of training and the problems of the labour market.

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Graduate trainees required by International Bank for Investment in Europe area. Economic degree and fluent French essential.

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FLAT SHARING

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DYFED COUNTY COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The present Chief Executive is retiring and the Council are now seeking a successor. The successful candidate will be the head of the Council's permanent services, the Principal Policy Adviser to the Council and will have overall responsibility for the review and co-ordination of the Council's services. He or she will be free of specific departmental responsibilities. Applicants should be suitably qualified but no particular professional discipline is specified. Ability to speak Welsh is essential and applicants must be able to demonstrate considerable administrative experience and attainment. The appointment is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Service of the I.N.C. for Chief Executives and the salary scale will be £22,763-£24,975 per annum; Essential Car Allowance and resettlement expenses will be payable. Further details and forms of application, obtainable from undersigned, to whom applications must be submitted by 16th MARCH, 1981.

G. R. PEREGRINE, Chief Executive

County Hall, Carmarthen.

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required in the coffee shop to sell a high-quality range of cold foods and beverages.

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Please contact Carol Bayley on 01-839 8000 ext 35, THE DESIGN CENTRE, 28 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4SU.

Solihull School BURSAR

Applications are invited for the post of BURSAR AND CLERK to the Governors at Solihull School.

Full details are available from the Clerk to the Governors, Solihull School, Solihull, West Midlands B91 3DJ.

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A Sales career with us leads to both

We are a national company with an outstanding record of success in the field of sales. We are looking for a sales executive who is motivated, energetic and has a proven track record in sales. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and maintenance of a sales network in the Midlands region. Salary is commensurate with experience and potential.

PUBLISHING COMPANY BASED EAST SUFFOLK

Seeks EDITORIAL ASSISTANT age 25 to 35 with independent school education and university degree. Applicants must have a clean driving licence, be prepared to travel in the UK, have experience of interviewing and be capable of planning and writing promotional literature. Type C.V. and handwritten covering letter stating salary expectations to: Mrs. C. L. L. L., The Editor, East Suffolk Publishing Co., 100 High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.

AN EDITOR FOR "ADVICE"

ADVICE is a successful new network on housing and medical services. We are looking for an experienced editor who has first class writing skills and a proven track record in editing. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and maintenance of a network of contributors in the housing and medical services sectors. Salary is commensurate with experience and potential.

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£14,000 p.a.

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Application forms and further information from the undersigned to whom applications should be submitted by 5 March, 1981.

K. A. Abel DL, Chief Executive, Dorset County Council, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ.

LANCASHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY DEPUTY POLICE CONSTABLE

Salary £19,791

Applications for this office are invited from persons with wide police experience in the United Kingdom. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Police Authority. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Police Authority. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Police Authority.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

01-589 9222

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University College London

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

On a one-year SRC funded project in the Department of Psychology, University College London. The project is concerned with the study of the effects of stress on the immune system. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Liverpool

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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Bull Holmes PERSONNEL ADVISERS

01-442 5775

IOB Institute of Biology GENERAL SECRETARY

The Council of the Institute of Biology invites applications for the post of General Secretary which will fall vacant on April 1st, 1982, upon the retirement of Mr. D. J. B. Copp.

The Institute, with headquarters in central London, was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1979 and has a membership of 15,000. It represents professional biologists, and promotes matters of interest to them in a wide variety of activities concerned with scientific meetings and representations to governmental and other bodies. The General Secretary is the chief administrative officer of the Institute and, within policy determined by the Council, is responsible for the direction of headquarters staff and represents the Institute formally and informally in many of its relations with a wide variety of organisations. Conditions of service and a salary scale appropriate to the key position the General Secretary holds in Institute affairs will apply.

Correspondence and requests for further particulars of the post should be sent to the Honorary Secretary of the Institute, Professor J. A. Beardmore, Department of Genetics, University College of Swansea, telephone 0792 25678, Ext. 687, of whom informal enquiries may also be made.

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